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A
RELATION
OF SEVERAL
CIRCUMSTANCES
WHICH OCCURRED IN
THE PROVINCE OF
LOWER NORMANDY,
DURING THE REVOLUTION,
AND UNDER THE
GOVERNMENTS OF ROBESPIERRE AND THE DIRECTORY;
COMMENCING IN THE YEAR 1789, DOWN TO THE YEAR 1800.
WITH A DETAIL OF THE
CONFINEMENT AND SUFFERINGS OF
THE AUTHOR;
TOGETHER WITH AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
Manners and Rural Customs
OF
THE INHABITANTS OF THAT PART OF THE COUNTRY
CALLED
THE BOCAGE,
IN LOWER NORMANDY;
WITH THE TREATMENT OF THEIR CATTLE, NATURE OF SOIL,
CULTIVATION AND HARVESTING OF THEIR CROPS,
DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT, &c.

BY GEORGE GREENE.

London:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR;

AND PUBLISHED BY J. HATCHARD, BOOKSELLER TO HER MAJESTY, NO. 190,
PICCADILLY.

1802.

THE BOCCAGE
IN LOWER NORMANDY;
WITH THE TREATMENT OF THEIR CATTLE, NATURE OF SOIL,
CULTIVATION, AND HARVESTING OF THEIR CROPS;
BY GEORGE CHIFFINE.
LONDON:
Brettell and Bastie, Printers,
No. 54, Great Windmill-Street, Haymarket.
1840.

Bayerische
Staatsbibliothek
München

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No. 54, Great Windmill-Street, Haymarket.

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ADDRESS
TO THE PUBLIC.

THE substance of the following sheets was never intended to meet the scrutiny of the public eye; but was written only for the entertainment of a friend of early youth. Upon my return from England, finding, by the death of most of my friends who had inclination and interest to serve me, all my fond hopes of being provided for destroyed, I was advised by the person to whom these letters were addressed to publish them. Lord Adam Gordon, who had known for several years my conduct and my misfortunes, and had constantly honoured me with his protection and
friendship

friendship, graciously condescended to give me leave to dedicate them to him. But as my cup of misfortune was not yet full, death has, just at the moment of my ushering this work into the world, deprived me of that noble and generous patron.

Left, therefore, without a patron to protect, or a powerful friend to interest himself in its success, I have dared to commit the following letters to print with a boldness which necessity alone could inspire to contribute to the better support of a precarious existence, flattering myself the generosity of my countrymen, may procure it a reception which its merit could not have the most distant claims to look up to.

The circumstances related, which refer to the French Revolution, are scenes which have passed immediately under
my

my eye, and are related at the epochs in which they happened ; and as to those which regard myself, there are original papers in my possession which prove the authenticity. In respect to the operations in agriculture I have only given the modes they adopt in that part of the province of Normandy where I resided, without presuming to make any observation thereon ; and if any hint may there be given which may prove useful, I shall be amply repaid for all I have suffered in France. Although most of them are neither novel or perhaps equal to our own rural management, yet as some of them differ in their process, I only humbly offer them to the reader, imagining that every man who has visited foreign countries must have experienced the erroneousness of a first judgement he pronounced on practices different

ferent from those of his own country ;
and will certainly own that, upon the
whole, he found many things to be pro-
per and necessary that appeared to him
at first wrong or useless.

AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
MOST MEMORABLE EVENTS
THAT HAPPENED IN
LOWER NORMANDY,
DURING THE
French Revolution.

SIR,

Paris, Oct. 28th, 1789.

YOU are astonished, you say, my good friend, to find I have left England, and desirous to know the motive which could induce me to take this step; your friendly inquiries demand an explanation of the many reasons which render it the only one from which I can expect an amelioration to my present unfortunate circumstances.

You cannot have forgotten that, when you left London, in the year 1787, a bill in

B

Chancery

Chancery was filed against me, and in consequence of a decree obtained for that purpose, my life interest in the major part of my fortune was sold before a master. By this event reduced to a slender income, and having, as you know, a large family to maintain, the fruitless endeavour to find at home an employment, and necessity's imperious dictates, have at length forced me to seek, in a foreign land, what my ardent wishes had so anxiously hoped to find in my native country.

Lord Adam Gordon, the nobleman whom you have so often heard me mention, with that respect which virtue united to rank will always command, was so good as to give me letters of recommendation to his Serene Highness the Prince of Monaco, whom I was so fortunate as to find looking out for a land-steward. After reading my Lord's letter, he told me that, if the salary he should propose to me was agreeable, I

might

might set out for Lower Normandy and take a view of the estate I was to superintend; and indeed I found myself too much overjoyed not to accept his Highness's proposals.

To-morrow, therefore, I quit Paris for Torigny, the name of the town where the Prince's property lies, and from thence I shall return to England by way of Dieppe, and in a short time I hope to be settled with my family in Normandy. The great distance that you are from London will prevent me from enjoying the satisfaction of taking a personal leave of you; most probably some years will elapse before we meet again; but our friendship is of too long standing, and too sincere, I hope, to have any thing to fear from length of absence or change of clime. The same sentiments of regard, I assure you, will ever warm the bosom of

Your's, &c.

THE

Torigny, May 17th, 1790.

THE melancholy duties I had to fulfil during my short stay in England, prevented my answering your last favour sooner. On my arrival, how was the joy I felt, in pressing my beloved wife and children, soon converted into sorrow on beholding my eldest son, who was just entering his twenty-fourth year, and a little girl not quite six, both on the verge of the grave! My son, every thing the fondest parent could wish, endowed with those active virtues which prove at once the elevation of the mind and the goodness of the heart; my daughter, a lovely little cherub, but a few months ago, blooming with health and spirits. It was beyond the power of human art to restore them to health; they were both in the last stage of a consumption. You may easily believe my grief on beholding this sad spectacle just when I was flattering

tering myself with the hopes of soon seeing an end to our sorrow; the blow was most severely felt, for although the letters I had received at Paris intimating that there were few hopes left of their recovery, yet I had persuaded myself that a mother's anxiety had anticipated an event that was not so near at hand, and I depended greatly on a change of climate for restoring them to our most ardent wishes. But, alas! three weeks after my arrival, my two unfortunate children were both interred upon the same day, and in the same grave: but I must here drop a subject the date of which is too recent to allow me to dwell longer upon it. The last sad solemn parental duties being performed, we embarked at Portsmouth, and after a short and prosperous voyage, we landed at Havre de Grace; from thence crossed the Seine to Honfleur, where we lay all night, and the next morning took chaises for Caen. We travelled the lower road, choosing

choosing the journey along the sea shore to Dive, in preference to the upper one by way of Lisieux, the distance from Caen being also much shorter, the one only thirteen leagues, and the other better than twenty. We arrived at the metropolis of Lower Normandy in the holy week; and, for the first time, we were spectators of the processions they make in catholic countries during that period. After staying there two or three days, and seeing all that was remarkable, we proceeded on our journey to our place of destination, and arrived the Saturday before Easter, at the Prince's castle, situated in the middle of a most delightful park in the town of Torigny.

The property in France belongs to his Highness in right of his father, who was a Frenchman born, and descended from a long line of noble and illustrious ancestors of the name of Matignon, who were highly celebrated in the sieges and battles of this country,

country, and received, as a recompence for their valour, a great number of noble titles, and, among others, those of Duke of Valentinon, Count of Torigny, and Baron of St. Lo. The father of his Highness married the only daughter of Honore Grimaldi, Prince of Monaco; the issue of this marriage was the present Prince whom I have the honour to serve, and is the same who received at Monaco, in his last illness, his late Royal Highness the Duke of York, brother to our most gracious Monarch.

The estate in this neighbourhood consists of large territorial domains, extensive forests, and fee farm rents. The castle, though ancient, is magnificent and spacious, it is adorned with statues and paintings; in the centre is a neat little theatre. The park is extensive, and beautifully diversified with wood and water; the stables are of a modern architecture, have a very fine effect, and are capable of containing one hundred

dred horses, of which his Highness is allowed to have one of the best studs in France. The house allotted me is a delightful pavilion close to the orangery, which is so beautiful, that it is thought no disparagement to compare it with that of Versailles. The town, close to which the castle stands, has nothing to recommend it to the attention of strangers; the streets are narrow and badly built; almost all the houses, except those inhabited by the gentry, are covered with thatch; and, like the generality of the towns in France, the streets are very dirty; notwithstanding this, as the air is salubrious, the situation pleasant, and the articles of life cheap, it is well peopled, and the society extremely genteel, for the Prince always resides here two months in the year; and, during his stay, the place is very gay, as he always brings with him a company of comedians, who act every night for the amusement of the inhabitants; his

Highness

Highness defrays all the expences, and every body is admitted in their turns, gratis.

Here is an abbey of Bernadine monks, and a convent of nuns of the same order, founded, and chiefly endowed, by the family of Matignon, two parish churches, and an hospital for its poor. The market is well supplied with all sorts of provisions, and at a very moderate rate, this part of the province being remarkable for its cheapness.

The town is a bailiwick, having a jurisdiction over thirteen parishes, and a court of civil and criminal judicature; the judge of the former is appointed and paid by the Prince. Having no manufactures, it would be at a loss to subsist, if it was not for the number of people, its market and its judicial processes bring to it. There is, indeed, a great thoroughfare through it to the towns of Vire, St. Lo, Coutance, and Cherbourg; but, on account of the badness

ness of the roads, is not much used during the winter.

The surrounding country is beautifully picturesque and well stocked with game. About a mile from the town is a river abundant in pike and salmon.—I am afraid all these details will appear trifling to you, and will therefore trespass no longer upon your complaisance.



Torigny, July 26th, 1790.

My last informed you of my safe arrival and instalment in the functions of land-steward; I have now to give you a detail of what my occupations consist, and to account to you for the novelty of an Englishman superintending a French estate. The Prince, from his acquaintance with some English noblemen, has adopted an extraordinary

traordinary taste for every thing that is English; being fond of agriculture, he entertains an idea that our rural management is far superior to the Norman one; and, wishing to make the experiment, he had been some time seeking for a person who could blend some agricultural experience with a sufficient knowledge of the French tongue; fortunately for me, he considered I possessed a sufficiency of both; and, as he leaves it to a Frenchman, versed in the laws of his country, to lease his lands, and to receive the rents, the rest may easily be executed by a foreigner.

My employment consists in surveying, planting, felling, and selling the timber in the park, and in the woods and forests on contiguous estates, for his Highness's possessions are very extensive and considerable in this neighbourhood: the repairing of the farms, the rural management of the park, which contains eight hundred acres, the
 buying,

buying, felling, and breeding of all kinds of stock; the felling of the horses of the stud, and the payment of all the tradesmen and labourers.

To conquer ancient prejudices, to correct long acquired habits, almost totally to change an old established system, to detect rapine, and to guard against treachery arising from jealousy, renders the enterprize no easy matter; but determined to fulfil with honour the different calls of my situation, I flatter myself, by an assiduous attention to those several duties, in course of time, I may be able to effectuate a reform, if the new innovations, which appear taking place in the government, does not interfere. Here I perceive your surprize at my mentioning, as an obstacle, the changes that are taking place in the constitution of the country; but even at this early period it is easy to see the effect it has on the different orders of society; it is almost incredible the difference

difference a few months have made in the
 spirits of the common people, who now
 begin to shew openly their dislike to the
 nobility, and seem to threaten a severe and
 cruel retaliation for the subjection they hi-
 therto thought themselves to be subject to.
 Corn being at present very dear, they make
 that the plea for their murmurs; and this
 spirit of revenge has already began to manifest
 itself in this neighbourhood. The Marquis
 of Belfance, major in the regiment of Bour-
 bon infantry, quartered at Caen, in endea-
 vouring with a detachment to quell a riot
 which had arisen in that town, in conse-
 quence of the price of grain, was seized by
 the mob; and, before any authority could
 intervene to rescue him from these monsters,
 was butchered in the market place, and his
 mangled limbs carried in triumph through
 the city. I hardly dare enter into all the
 particulars of this barbarous transaction, lest
 you should suspect my veracity; but it is
 literally

literally a fact, that they drank out of the skull the blood that streamed from his body; and his still beating heart was devoured by those canibals. Their cruelty ended not here, as if one victim was not enough to satisfy their rage, they carried his mangled corpse to the house of a beautiful young lady he was on the point of marrying, and threw it at her feet: thus the unhappy fair saw, in one instant, all the fond dreams of future bliss, which her creative fancy might have formed, changed to horror, distraction, and despair.

I have myself experienced, in a small degree, the turbulent disposition which now prevails in the lower classes of the people. The Prince having earnestly desired me to manage all his agricultural concerns according to the English method, in the month of April I folded upon a piece of wheat which appeared too luxuriant; the populace immediately began to cry out that his Highness,

ness, fearful that he should not have it in his power to keep from them the corn, when it was ripe, had engaged an Englishman, at a very great expence, to come over and destroy it whilst it was in vegetation; but, reasoning with the most intelligent, I prevailed upon them to wait the event; this, therefore, passed quietly over; but in the hay time, when I began to have the hay put into ricks, a thing they had never seen done in this quarter, their murmurs broke out afresh, and were openly pointed at me. On seeing a chimney made in the middle of the stacks, by means of a sack filled with straw, their ignorance induced them to think it was for some secret purpose: perhaps, said some of them, it is for a depôt of arms; and nothing could convince them to the contrary, till they saw the roof covered over with thatch. These circumstances, although trifling in themselves, serve to shew that when I said the change in the
govern-

govenment might interfere, or perhaps totally prevent my schemes of improvement, my suspicions were not quite groundless. It would be useless to resist a torrent which menaces to carry every thing before it; opposition would only serve to irritate the mob, and might prove fatal to those who would attempt it.

There has been a sudden report raised through all the provinces, of a grand conspiracy against liberty, and of the approach of pretended brigands, who cut down and destroy the harvest; this report was purposely circulated, it is generally thought, to serve as a pretext for arming the multitude; if this was the case, it has had the desired effect; for, under pretence of defeating the banditti, arms and ammunition were indiscriminately delivered to every body. Dispatches had been previously sent into all the provinces with instructions how to operate upon the minds of the people,

ple, who, actuated by the dread of this ideal banditti, were soon up in arms to defend their respective properties against the bold intruders. Large detachments of armed men, many of whom had never before handled a gun, were incessantly running to and fro, in quest of those brigands who were no where to be found; and, as the fear of the common foe began to subside, each felt he had it in his power to attack and ill treat his own private enemies. Many of the houses of the nobility and gentry have been plundered under pretence of giving an asylum to the brigands; all is sanctioned by the grand fiat of the day, *public good*, which is every where proclaimed as the ruling principle, under which sanction the greatest private evils are committed; and every crime is palliated by the proscribing suspicions of aristocracy and incivism.

To prevent any attack upon the castle, the principal persons attached to the owner,

formed an armed force of the servants, labourers, and workmen, to defend it. An express was sent off to the Prince, at Paris, to know his intentions. He wrote, for answer, that he should be sorry that any blood should be spilt in defence of his property, and that he desired all persons, belonging to him, would disband ; which was immediately put into execution. In a few days after this, his harmless pigeons fell the victims of the decree of the national assembly, which had prohibited all dove-cots throughout the kingdom. On the thirteenth of this month, the national guards were installed, and the national cockade adopted ; the first person who wore it was Camille Demoulins, one of the deputies.

Since my letter was began, for it was written at different leisure moments, which may account for its being so diffused, I have had the satisfaction, even in so short a space of time, to receive undoubted proofs of the

Prince's

Prince's approbation of my conduct. Wishing to take a trip over to England, I wrote to ask his Highness's consent; and as I know you take a sincere interest in my welfare, I cannot refrain from transmitting you the answer I received.

Paris, August 2d, 1790.

MONSEIGNEUR le Prince de Monaco a reçu, Monsieur votre lettre du premier de ce mois, par la quelle vous lui demandez la permission de vous absenter pendant quelque tems de Torigny, pour faire un voyage en Angleterre. Son altesse, approuvant les raisons qui vous obligent de partir, vous accorde la permission que vous demandez. Le Prince me charge en même tems de vous recommander de ne rester absent que le moins que vous pourrez, et de vous prevenir qu' étant satisfait de votre conduite et du zèle que vous avez montré
jusqu'

jusqu' ici pour ses intérêts, il vous accorde
une augmentation de deux mille quatre
cent livres par an, qui vous sera payé à
compter du jour que vous ferez de retour
d'Angleterre.

Je suis très parfaitement, Monsieur,

votre tres humble serviteur,

ANGELUCI.

<i>Monsieur,</i>	Secrétaire des commande-
<i>Monsieur George Greene,</i>	ments du Prince.
<i>au château de Torigny,</i>	
<i>Normandie.</i>	

TRANSLATION.

Paris, August 2d, 1790.

THE Prince of Monaco has re-
ceived your letter, Sir, of the first of this
month, in which you ask his permission to
be absent some time from Torigny, in
order to make a voyage to England;
his Highness, approving the reasons that
oblige you to set out, consents to grant you
the

the leave you desire. The Prince orders me, at the same time, to recommend it to you to be absent as short a time as possible; and to inform you that, being perfectly satisfied with your conduct, and the zeal you have till now shewn for his interests, he allows you an augmentation of one hundred pounds a year, to take place from the day of your return from England.

I am, sincerely, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ANGELUCI,

Mr. Greene,

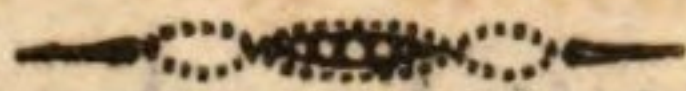
Secretary to the Prince.

At the castle of Torigny,

Normandy.

After this letter, I think I may safely flatter myself that fortune is going to relent in my favour, for I now not only look upon my situation as comfortable, but as permanent; and, if I could entirely divest myself
of

of that share of *amor patriæ* which animates the breast of every true born Briton, I think I should have nothing to regret but the distance which separates yourself and my friends from your sincere, &c.



Torigny, November 8th, 1790.

It is not for want of subject to employ my pen, that I have deferred so long in giving you the account you desire of the different occurrences which come within my knowledge; every day now brings with it something new; and it would be a difficult matter to give you a circumstantial relation of events which follow each other with such rapidity; I shall, therefore, confine myself to the most striking.

The abolition of the tythes, evidently decreed by the national assembly, to gain
over

over the peasants to their cause, has wonderfully operated upon that class of people; and the abolition of the feudal laws, which took place at the same time, compleated the intoxicating dose.

The national guards are now enrolled, and a regular guard is mounted, every day, in all the towns and villages through the kingdom. No one is allowed to pass without being examined who he is, what he is, from whence he came, or whither he is going; and all these questions must be punctually answered. In the villages, this is sometimes productive of very ludicrous scenes, through the ignorance of the peasants. The nobles * were at first named officers; but, as that order becomes every

* Whenever the term nobles is mentioned, it includes, under that denomination, those two classes which are separated in England by the words nobility and gentry, but in France, are only distinguished by haute and bas noblesses.

day more and more obnoxious to the people, in many places there have already been new elections made of commanders, chosen from the middling, and even lower orders of society. In our little town, the officers have been entirely new chosen, and the Prince's receiver, by way of marking his gratitude to his benefactor, has got himself named commandant; and has already proved himself worthy of the confidence reposed in him by such a lawless band. The second is an assassin who the Prince, out of regard to his family, which is of great respectability, had saved from the wheel for a murder. The other officers are two renegado Bernadine monks, an unprincipled attorney, and a butcher; you may therefore conclude that it is in imitation of other great towns, that our bourgeoisie have discarded their truly respectable officers, to name, in their place such a set of miscreants. I think I may here observe, without being accused of partiality

or

or injustice, that there is scarcely a man to be met with who, professing himself to be a flaming revolutionist, possesses either the manners of a gentleman, or that common share of probity which is necessary to keep the links of society together; and yet, such are the men who in most of the provinces are bearing every thing before them; and who, under the mask of public good, entangle in their net the unwary multitude.

France has changed its geographical description; it is now divided into eighty-three departments, or large divisions, which are subdivided into five hundred and thirty-five districts; and these are again subdivided into forty thousand eight hundred municipalities, which I may say form as many little independent states. But, before I enter upon the new division of the province of Normandy, it may not be uninteresting to you if I first give you a geographical description of its former one.

Normandy

Normandy is bounded on the north by the English Channel, on the east by Picardy and the Isle of France, on the south by Perch, Maine, and part of Brittany, and on the west, by the Atlantic Ocean. It is one hundred miles in length, eighty in breadth, and six hundred in circumference, and is divided into upper and lower. Rouen is the capital of the upper, and Caen of the Lower Normandy. The upper, comprehends the dioceses of Rouen and Lisieux; the lower, those of Seez, Avranch, Bayeux, and Coutance; it is subdivided into different cantons. The air is healthy, and very free from fogs. Each canton produces distinct commodities, proper to furnish the necessaries of life in meat, butter, poultry, eggs, game, corn, wood, coals, and cyder; but as I can speak with exactness and truth only of that part in which I reside, I shall, after giving a superficial account of all the rest, confine myself to a detail

tail of the neighbouring cantons of my residence.

The first of the distant ones is the canton of Caux, in the diocese of Rouen ; it comprehends six hundred parishes, thirty towns, and ten cities ; it is forty miles long, and as many broad ; it produces corn, cattle, fish, hemp, flax, cyder, wood, and pit-coal. Caudebec is its principal town, and Havre de Grace its chief seaport.

The second is the canton of Auge ; it gives the title of viscount. It produces corn, wool, hemp, flax, wood, and cyder ; it feeds an immense quantity of sheep and oxen for Paris ; has several salt-works ; Pontaudemere is the principal town, and Honfleur its chief seaport.

The third is the canton of Bessin, in the diocese of Bayeux ; it produces butter, fat beasts, fat calves, sheep, fish, and hay. It has several quarries of slate, with which the
houses

nouses of the gentry and rich citizens are covered. Bayeux is the principal town, and Isigny its chief sea-port.

The fourth is the canton of Cotentin, in the diocese of Coutance, abounding in the richest pastures in France. It produces fat oxen, fat sheep, the largest breed of cows, and the finest horses are bred here, especially for coaches and equipages of state; the wool also is finer than elsewhere. The principal town is Coutance, and the chief seaport is Granville.

The fifth is the canton of Vexin, which is fruitful in corn, wool, cattle, hemp, flax, and cyder. The chief town is Gisors.

The sixth is the canton of the Bocage, or woodland, in the dioceses of Bayeux, Coutance, and Avranches; it abounds, in an extraordinary manner, with all the necessities of life, especially corn, hemp, lint, wax, honey, butter, eggs, game, wood, and

and sea-coal: the manufactories of coarse woollen cloth are abundant, and it furnishes also a great quantity of linen.

Normandy is at present divided into five departments; the Seine Inferieure, comprehending Rouen, Havre de Grace, Caudebec, &c. Calvados, comprehending Caen, Bayeux, Falaise, and its environs; La Manche, comprehending Coutance, St. Lo, Cherbourg, Granville, Avrancher, Mortain, and Torigny; L'Eure, comprehending Evreux, Pontaudemere, Lisieux, &c. Loire, comprehending Sees, Alencon, and the neighbouring towns and villages.

The Prince has, this autumn, visited his possessions here. He is so much beloved that, notwithstanding the great changes which have happened since the last time he paid a visit to Torigny, he was received with the usual marks of respect by the generality of the inhabitants; a few only of our first rate democrats dared to treat him with an unbecoming familiarity, designedly omitting

omitting his title when they spoke to him; one of them, indeed, went so far as to tell him that now, thanks to the national assembly, they were all equal.

I am fearful these levelling ideas, which for some time past have been thrown out by the legislature, will lead to something dangerous. We are not to expect that mankind will, on a sudden, be inspired with an instinctive spirit of philosophy: the springs of prejudice are inexhaustible in the human mind; though its current may be taught to take a new direction, and perhaps it can scarce commit more fatal devastations than when it overturns, in its rapid course, every idea of just subordination, every distinction between the various classes of mankind, and blends, in a terrible and unnatural chaos, the rude artizan, and the untutored village swain, with the elegance of polished manners, and the elevation of sentiment derived from a long line of illustrious ancestors.

INGRA-

Torigny, May, 25th, 1791.

INGRATITUDE seems to be a marking feature in the character of those men who are here dignified by the appellation of good patriots. The Prince has lately experienced an act of the blackest die, coloured by the specious title of patriotism. The principality of Monaco, infested with the contagious revolutionary principles, began to shew some marks of a spirit of revolt the latter end of last autumn; the Prince being there at the time, he found it expedient to make several concessions in the payment of the revenues due to him on the imports and exports of fruit and olives; this not proving sufficient, he was forced to quit the place abruptly for fear of being ill treated. Early this spring, the populace, headed by a monster of ingratitude, who, from his Highness's valet de chambre had been raised by him to the place of town-major, seized upon
his

his palace, rifled it of its valuable furniture and plate, declaring, at the same time, their independence of their lawful sovereign; and sent off deputies to the national assembly at Paris, soliciting to be united to the French departments, an indulgence which, from the temper of the times, they were not long in obtaining.

Happily for the town of Torigny, its municipality is well composed; it consists of a mayor, a town-clerk, six municipal officers, twelve common council, and a secretary; and, in justice to its members, I must say the place is preserved by their love of justice, their humanity, their moderation, and their firmness, from many of those dreadful catastrophes which so cruelly devast most other places in this unfortunate country; but, notwithstanding their good intentions, they cannot entirely restrain the licentiousness of the populace, who, electrified by the phantom of liberty, which is purposely
daily

daily held out to them, run into the greatest excesses in rapine and plunder; for there is nothing more difficult than to draw the line between liberty and licentiousness. The devastation committed in the Prince's forests and woods, and the theft and plunder of his timber are amongst the first acts of violence; they have hewn down, and cast into the fire, whole thriving nurseries of oak and beech, and stripped every tree that answered to a poor man the trouble of cutting down. The farmers, tenants, and servants of the Prince, who formerly pressed forward to serve him, for he was a kind and generous landlord and master, are now the most eager to promote the devastation and share in the spoils. In a word, the whole estate begins to exhibit, in a natural sense, a mutilated and mangled prospect, once pleasing and profitable; and, in a moral sense, a yet more melancholy view of the depravity, the ingratitude, and the wanton-

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ness

ness of men when they have not the fear of the iron hand of the law to restrain them.

The first principle the peasants are taught from the new code is, that they have a right to assemble with arms to force the surrender of title deeds; and their first revolutionary notions of equality and property, seem to have been manifested in destroying dove-cots, burning of castles, and refusing to pay their rents. They are permitted to intimidate their landlords, in order to force them to emigrate, and either sell their estates at a low price, or leave them to the mercy of the nation. The populace are now possessed with that democratic fury, which, with frantic enthusiasm, tears down every boundary assigned by wisdom, and held sacred by virtue; levels with indiscriminating impetuosity every protecting principle of the laws, every holy sentiment of religion; and bearing its favourite pageant, liberty and equality, through the flaming ruins, mangles

mangles and massacres without compunction; and dooms to destruction every heart that refuses to bow in ridiculous homage to its sanguinary idols. The turbulent and factious spirit of sedition, which dignifies its excesses with the specious name of patriotism, is the grand spring which actuates the measures of the prevailing party, they keep emissaries perpetually employed to breathe into the minds of the people those destructive flames of discord which have already burst out in so many unparalleled acts of injustice and barbarity; and from which, effects still more atrocious are to be dreaded.

The next object, at which this levelling system may grasp, will, probably, be an equal distribution of property; and, under this idea, robbery will be licenced by the sanction of *le peuple souverain*, and the daring outrages of banditti extolled as exploits of heroic patriotism.

I have neither time or capacity to follow
the

the thread of events through all their various mazes; and, as I do not doubt but you have a clear and circumstantial account of them in the English newspapers, I refer you to them for a more ample detail.

Most of the clergy of this town and its environs have refused to take the new oath of allegiance, and even the greatest part of those who did take it, have retracted; the consequence is, that all those who were possessed of benefices are obliged to resign them, and they became the reward of those whose consciences are not quite so disinterested: many a venerable pastor is, at this moment, on the point of quitting his flock, and leaving it to the mercy of bears and wolves, disguised under the sacred garment of religion. As an illustration to this comment, I cannot forbear mentioning here another instance of the prevailing vice of the times; I mean ingratitude: it will serve, too, to display the abominable principle which

which

clergy,

which actuates those priests who were not in possession of benefices before this epocha. A clergyman, who possessed a considerable living in this neighbourhood, had, some years ago, conceived a friendship for a young man of the parish; and, after having generously afforded him the means to procure the necessary qualifications, he got him ordained, and made him his curate. When the oath was required, he asked his benefactor what were his intentions in respect to it, and received for answer, that he was determined to refuse it, as he could not hesitate an instant sacrificing his worldly interest to the peace of his conscience. The curate observed, that he thought himself extremely happy to find that was his opinion, as their sentiments were perfectly consonant on that subject; but as he was going to pass some few weeks with a friend in the country, he should be absent at the moment of the ceremony; and therefore begged his
patron

patron would answer for him. But what can paint the surprize of the good old rector, when he was informed that this base sycophant had only absented himself to deceive him more securely, and that he had not only taken the oath at the district, but that he had been soliciting to be named to the living, which, by his refusal, he knew his benefactor would be deprived of. And he was certainly considered as a proper object of revolutionary protection, for he has been named accordingly. The priests, who reject the oath, cannot be influenced by any other motive than that of a pure consideration of their duty, since they had, without an effort, submitted to the alienation of the church lands; for, soon after the abolition of the tythes, the national assembly seized upon all the territorial, and other remaining revenues of the church, as the only means that could be found to supply the exigencies of the state. Accordingly, the clergy,

clergy, in lieu of their former incomes, are reduced to very limited pensions. In parishes containing above three thousand persons, the rector receives eighty pounds a year; where there are but one thousand, the pension is fifty pounds; and the general allowance, in all smaller ones, is thirty pounds; and to each is allotted the parsonage house and garden.

I think the most zealous partizans of the revolution, will have some trouble to justify this act of injustice.

As the political hemisphere appears every day more and more clouded, prudence requires me to be very cautious in giving my opinion, or in relating events; and, as the sending letters by the post is now not only precarious, but even dangerous, I shall send no more by the ordinary way, but wait till I can find some occasion to transmit them more securely to you. I lament that these opportunities will not often occur.

LITTLE

Sept. 7th, 1791.

LITTLE hopes now remain of soon seeing the public tranquillity restored. Time seems teeming with events; and, from what is daily going on, it is no difficult matter to prognosticate that they will be of the melancholy kind. The whole kingdom has been dreadfully convulsed for these last three or four months; we have heard of nothing but riots in different quarters. Burning of castles has long since been a pastime of the revolutionary rabble. Humanity is shocked with the recital of numberless acts of barbarity, which are every where perpetrated in all parts of the kingdom. The most noble structures, that had resisted for ages the ravages of time, now fall beneath the levelling hands of the national guards; every thing seems to present an aspect of universal devastation. The literary productions are filled with
images

images of horror which the revolution furnishes, and with anecdotes of tyranny and oppression, the veracity of which any person who lives in this country at this unhappy period, cannot doubt. Imagine not, my friend, that, biassed by prejudices or tyrannized by party, I wish to heighten the colours of a picture that wants rather the pencil of a skilful artist to soften the shades, that they may not revolt too much the feeling breast.

We have been so fortunate, in our little town and neighbourhood, that no acts of violence have been committed; and a circumstance that occurred a short time ago, has convinced the sober and moderate part of the inhabitants that, in case of an insurrection, a little well-timed courage and resolution would effectually quell any commotion that might arise; the circumstance I allude to is as follows: a general illumination in all the great towns having taken place.

place, in consequence of the unfortunate monarch being brought back from Varrenes, the inhabitants of this place, part of them from inclination, but the greatest part of them from fear, had lighted up their houses; a naval surgeon only, who had served under the former government, and a zealous royalist, refused to comply with this insult to his sovereign; and observed, he thought it was a matter of sorrow rather than of joy. The mob, in consequence, assembled before his house, and threatened to pull it down; he, therefore, after barricading his doors in the best manner of defence possible, presented himself at the window, attended by a faithful servant; and, showing the rabble some fire arms which he was possessed of, he told them he knew he should ultimately fall a victim to a superior force, but that he was determined to fire upon the first person who should attempt to force an entry; and, as the staircase was

narrow

narrow that led to his chamber, he should, at least, destroy half a dozen before he fell himself. This so intimidated them, that they quietly retired; and he afterwards paraded the streets all the rest of the evening, with two brace of pistols stuck in his girdle, and his sabre by his side, without any one daring to offer him the least insult or molestation.

In the history of this revolution, as in that of the revolution of all countries, thousands of facts of the same kind may be cited; which all prove, that a people, even in a state of rebellion, have only moments of bravery, or rather of fury; and that terror is, in some sort, natural to them. Their strength, which consists in their impetuosity, cannot withstand an obstinate resistance; and to reduce them, is to attack them before they themselves begin the attack, or at the moment they give it over.

Money now begins to disappear, and the
new

new paper currency, distinguished by the name of Assignats, is substituted in its place; but, as the nominal value of any of them is no lower than four shillings and two pence, it has been found so very difficult to settle the small transactions of commerce, that the respective municipalities have thought it expedient to issue notes for the convenience of small change, payable by them, as a corporate body, secured by the local revenues of the corporation, and payable in assignats of four shillings and two pence. As honesty, as well as gratitude, is not among the leading characteristic virtues of the present zealous democrats, the engraver of the plate, for the small notes of this town, has taken the opportunity, before he sent it to the magistrates, of printing off a large number for his own private use. This was not discovered till after he had put them in circulation, and had made his harvest and a secure retreat. The

confe-

consequence is, the municipality pretends to pay only to the amount of the sum they had advertised to issue, and in course, the remainder will become useless paper in the hands of the holder. The numerous emigrations have not a little contributed to the scarcity of specie. They say it is incredible the sums of money that the fugitives have taken with them; every one converting into cash all that he possibly could, to enable him to subsist in his exile; though some there be who have sought the field of honor with a bare sufficiency to defray the expences of their voyage. Two younger sons of noble, but not affluent families, in this neighbourhood, set off with only ten pounds each in their pockets, flattering themselves their absence would be but of short duration, and that victory had a palm ready to crown their loyal endeavours.

The subject which occupies all parties at present is, the acceptation of the new constitution ;

tution; but, as I am a bad politician, I shall conclude here with sending you, for a full length sketch, to one of your own English newspapers.

Your's, &c.



Torigny, Oct. 4th, 1794.

THE scenes that this year has brought forth make the tender feelings of humanity tremble when it hears of them, and harrows up the innermost recesses of the soul while relating them.

The decree for the deportation of the clergy has taken place; and those holy martyrs to their religion, their consciences, and their loyalty, are forced to quit their late peaceful abodes. Torn from every tender tie, they prepare to wander on foreign shores, and seek that justice, that humanity,
and

and that hospitality, in foreign climes, which are inhumanly denied them in their native soil. Their revolutionary persecutors, not content only to banish them from every domestic comfort, they also force many of them, before they embark, to change the pecuniary provision they are supplied with by their friends, for a base paper money, which these monsters know bear a depreciated value even in that very state where it took its origin.

The great attachment the people had to their priests, made them here first make a pause while the most fatal schism soon completed the horrors that discord had begun. Now is every tie of social life cruelly broken down; the sweet charms of domestic felicity are now no where to be found; and the nearest and dearest friends are divided, not less by their political than by their religious principles.

The overthrow of the altars only paved the

the way to the overthrow of the throne. Where is the sensible being who has not sympathised in the unhappy fate of the unfortunate Louis. No one can behold, without indignation, the treatment of the illustrious sufferer, and how perfidiously the royal captive was betrayed, by those to whom he fled for shelter. The treatment he suffers in the temple throws an odium on the new government which alone would suffice to render it hateful, while the native goodness of the suffering monarch, his attachment to his subjects, the courage with which he bears the indignities they make him suffer, render him an object of respect and pity.

The success of the tenth of August seems to produce a general enthusiasm against royalty and nobility : not only the statues of kings are pulled down, and those of royalists and aristocrats destroyed, but all family distinctions, derived from ancestry, and all heraldic

raldic emblems are erased from the outside of houses, and from every article of furniture. Over the portal of the Prince's castle, in this town, was cut in Grecian marble, in a most rare and masterly manner, the arms of the house of Matignon, quartered with those of the family of Monaco; we had, in hopes of preserving them from the gothic rage of devastation, plastered them over with a thick and lasting stucco; but the monster, before mentioned as having been saved from the wheel by his Highness's interest, came with a band of villains like himself, and totally destroyed, in one minute, the expensive work of some years.

The horrors of the second and third of September soon followed the dethronement of the king; horrors, which so many pens have attempted to trace, and which no one can have a just idea of, unless they had heard them related by some person who had been present at the scene. Well may the

future generation, astonished, ask if it was in the eighteenth century, and among a civilized people, that this human butchery was committed? and which only will lead the way, perhaps, to a thousand others of scarce less barbarous a nature.

Merciful heavens! *le peuple souverain* is a victor which, flushed with the arrogance of unaccustomed conquest, drags at its chariot wheels the unfortunate whom it has subjugated; and adds to the weight of the galling chain of slavery, the taunts of insolent exultation and the bitterness of insulting scorn. The credulous populace, imposed upon by the vilest artifices, will be taught to applaud the stroke that gives a mortal wound to their own liberties; but their crimes will involve a horrible punishment. In the blind impetuosity of democratic zeal, they forge chains for themselves; and when the artificers of falsehood have compleatly entangled them in their webs,

webs, they will force them to drain the bitterest dregs of slavery; of that slavery to which they voluntarily bend their necks. What dreadful evils result from the caprice of human cruelty when combined with unrestrained authority, the page of history sufficiently unfolds!

France will emulate the guilt and wretchedness of Rome in the most disgraceful periods of its empire. Proscription, imprisonment, and murder, await its wretched inhabitants; for that merciless monster, jacobinism's thirst for human blood is not yet quenched. Oh! when will avenging heaven stretch forth its arm and drive the remorseless savages to wildernesses where they may prowl with kindred tigers, inflamed by the reciprocal animosity which animates the wicked. Discord will seize the men who now unite in hellish conspiracy like the gaunt monster of the desert, they will turn their own unrelenting fangs
against

against each other's bosoms; they will pour alternate libations of blood to the dæmon of revenge, and ultimately fall victims to that unrelenting cruelty whose inspirations they so implicitly obeyed: then humanity may revive to deplore the wounds which it will be long, very long, ere her lenient balm can heal.

Vergniaud, the deputy, in an affecting speech, after mentioning the unwillingness the people of Paris shew to work, says what can be the cause of this unwillingness amongst the best citizens.

“ Ah! gentlemen, there is no concealing it; those hatreds, those infamous accusations, those arbitrary arrests, those rumours of proscriptions, of plots, those personal attacks, those violations of property, this contempt of the laws, all those distressing circumstances have spread consternation and terror. The virtuous man hides himself; he flies from those scenes of blood.

Good

Good reason have the virtuous to hide themselves; when the wicked triumph, they are silent; they retire and wait for happier times before they appear again. When public tranquillity is interrupted, every one is anxious for the future state of his fortune, suspends his labours, diminishes his expences, and thinks of quitting a country where the safety of the individual is not sufficiently protected by the laws."

The republican banner and tree of liberty are now planted every where; the altars and images are broken down; religion is profaned; crimes and cruelties are committed which are too horrible to be conceived, almost, indeed, to be believed. The annals of history may be searched in vain for precedent or parallel. An instance has just occurred, in this town, to confirm the above assertion; and if daily experience did not convince me to the contrary, I, who am even upon the spot, should hardly believe it possible.

possible. A young man, born of a good family, who had received a liberal education, and had likewise filled a place under the former government, who, by the purity of his conduct and the suavity of his manners, had been the object of attention of all the best families of the place, has been at once so infected by the revolutionary mania as to have committed an act that Mandarin or Cartouche, under the former government, would have been ashamed of. Eager to put himself at the head of the revolutionary party in this neighbourhood, he got himself named, by the administrators of the department, as commissary for sequestering the property and effects of parents and relations of emigrants. In the course of his new employment amongst his old acquaintance he waited upon an elderly lady, whose two sons had a little time before emigrated with their brother officers, and both of whom had been, till that period, the inseparable friends

friends and companions of this new commissary; and who, as well as their mother, had received him constantly at their table, made him a partaker of all their parties of pleasure, and had even administered to some of his pecuniary wants; after having, with his myrmidons, fulfilled the duties of his office in taking an inventory, the old lady invited him to partake of such a dinner as the shortness of the notice and the pressure of the times would admit of. But what was the astonishment of the family when after the repast he ordered the butler to put upon the sideboard, not only all the silver spoons and forks which had been used at table, but the rest of the plate also; and, taking leave of the lady and her daughter, after putting the plate in his pocket, he told them he should offer it as a patriotic gift on her part to the exigencies of the state; and, without any other ceremony, set off to join his new companions,

panions those bawlers in clubs, and intriguers in municipalities ; men without means of subsistence, without moral principles, and without character ; who introduce into the department and the cantons the idea of insurrection and insubordination, the contempt of duty and decorum, profligacy of manners, and the blasphemous and obscene dialect which characterizes their party.

To increase the resources of the vainly monopolizing government, orders are given to seize on the property of the unhappy deported clergy ; and in consequence, the patrimonial or acquired estates of those of this class, in this town, are now selling for one fourth of their real value. After the tyrannical and scandalous deporting them, the seizure of their property can be of no service to the state, as the ecclesiastical revenues will not be sufficient to answer the ecclesiastical expences, as the losses upon the assignats tend extremely to depreciate the value

lue of the one, and considerably augment the disbursements on the other. The mind can have no conception of the loss upon the assignats; there are eight millions of them now in circulation; and one of the Paris newspapers assigned, as a reason for raising its price, the increasing value of paper, which was then three pounds seven shillings a ream. How, asks the editor, can it be otherwise, when government by contract is every day supplied with six thousand reams for its consumption in Assignats only. The loss on them, therefore, be what it may, will add to the miseries of an unhappy people; and they will ruin an infinity of persons without alleviating the public.

Unhappy country! where virtues are punished as crimes, and the most atrocious actions are applauded as patriotic virtues! Where laws are without force, justice without ministers, and innocence without support:

port : where the people think they behold conspirators and plots on every side, and breathe nothing but vengeance.



Torigny, Sept. 24th, 1793.

THE first four years of my abode in France have passed in tranquillity. After the storms I had experienced, I seemed to be arrived at the port where happiness once more blest me with her smiles. Enjoying the esteem of the Prince, my days passed serenely on, between the duties of that station which I filled near to my illustrious benefactor, and the comforts of my domestic life. I saw my family, content and happy, smile around me ; and the retrospection of the disappointments I had met with, served but to render more delicious the calm I now enjoyed.

Averse

Averse to all kinds of political disputes; conscious that my sentiments were such as every true born Briton should possess, I tried to maintain my tranquillity by not becoming the partizan of any of those factions that, not long after my arrival, began to tear this unfortunate country. I shuddered at the calamities with which it was every day more deeply involved; and I pitied the infatuation with which a poor deluded people had been so grossly abused, to bend their willing necks to the ponderous yoke; and by which they were led into crimes from which humanity shrinks back aghast.

Reposing upon my neutrality, far was I from thinking that whilst I was pleasing myself with these happy reflections, that I was at the very moment destined, an unsuspected victim to barbarous assassination and remorseless revenge. A person who was connected with the daughter of one of the Prince's domestics, whom I had threatened

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ened to discharge for neglect of his duty, denounced me at the club of jacobins as the cause of the rise of corn, by keeping back his Highness's grain from the market, and had absolutely engaged the mob to murder me the approaching market day ; but, fortunately for me, I was pre-informed, and took my means accordingly ; and, by putting myself under the protection of the municipality, secured myself from the fatal blow. Enraged that his malice was disappointed, as he was armed with an authority from the monster of a deputy who was in mission in this department, he officially demanded my arrest as guilty of holding a correspondence with the captors of Toulon, and grounded his accusation upon a letter he had opened some months before, as it had come to me by the post. The fact was that I had, at the time of the writing of the letter, just lost a son in that garrison, who was on the point of marriage ; and the father

father of the lady had solicited us to receive her at our house, in hopes that change of air and place might re-establish her health and dissipate her chagrin; and he had observed in his letter, that he would conduct her to Toulon if I would meet her there. As this violator of private correspondence, who could scarcely read his own native language, knew nothing of English, remembering he had seen Toulon mentioned in the letter, he thought he should catch me in a trap, and employed this means to execute his bloody purpose in a legal manner; he therefore addressed himself to the municipality, and forced them to take the following resolution, which with its result and translation I shall annex to this letter.

Extrait

*Extrait du Régistre des Délibérations
du Corps municipale de la Commune de
Torigny pour l'Année 1793, l'An deux
de la République contenant ce qui suit :*

Du mecredi dix huit Septembre 1793,
l'an deux de la République Française une et
indivisible, à Torigny dix heures du matin,
dans l'assemblée du conseil général de la com-
mune où étoient présens les citoyens Cau-
chard, maire, Beaufils, Nichole, Le Char-
tier, et Duval, officiers municipaux, Le-
Brun, Le Carpentier, Pierre André Reg-
naud, Etienne Phillipe, Pierre Pannier, Jean
Izabell, et Thomas Potier, notables.

Le citoyen Duval, qui a été nommé
pour porter à Paris le vœu de la ditte com-
mune sur l'acceptation de l'acte constitu-
tionnel, s'est présenté et s'est annoncé de la
part du citoyen Le Carpentier représentant
du peuple ; délégué par la convention na-
tionale

Extract from the Registers of the Deliberation of the Municipal Officers of the Commune of Torigny, for the Year 1793, second Year of the Republic, as follows:

Wednesday, the 18th of September, 1793, second year of the united and indivisible French Republic, Torigny, ten of the clock in the morning. The council general of the commune being assembled, there were present citizens Cauchard, mayor, Beaufils, Nichole, Le Chartier, and Duval, municipal officers; Le Brun, Le Carpentier, Peter Andrew Regnaud, Stephen Phillips, Peter Pannier, John Izabell, and Thomas Potier, assistant council.

Citizen Duval, who had been named to carry to Paris the consent of this commune to the acceptation of the act of the constitution, presented himself, and declared on the part of citizen Le Carpentier, representative of

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tionale dans le département de la Manche, a dit :

Que par sa commission il étoit chargé de requérir le conseil de faire transporter sans délai, si fait n'a été, tous les canons existans dans le château du ci-devant Prince de Monaco en cette commune, pour être fondus dans la ville de St. Lo, et être convertis en armes.

2. Qu'il requeroit en même temps, de la part du représentant du peuple, le conseil général de la commune de députer des commissaires pris dans son sein pour se transporter séance tenante et incontinent chez le citoyen Greene, Anglais, résident en cette ville, employé comme agent au citoyen Honore Grimaldi ci-devant Prince de Monaco, à fin d'y faire saisir sa personne, et faire perquisition de tous les papiers qui peuvent être en sa possession, et les faire apporter à la maison commune pour être vérifiés ainsi que ses armes et munitions.

Après

of the people, deputed by the national convention on mission, in the department of the Channel.

That by the commission with which he was charged, he required the council general to transport, without delay, if it was not already done, all the cannon which belonged to the castle of the late Prince of Monaco, in that commune, for the purpose of melting down and converting into fire arms, in the town of St. Lo.

2. That he required at the same time, on the part of the representative of the people, the general council of that commune, to depute commissaries, taken in their body, to transport themselves, during the present sitting, to the house of citizen Greene, an Englishman, residing in that town, and now employed as agent to citizen Honore Grimaldi, late Prince of Monaco ; to seize his person, and to make a strict search for all the papers that might be in his possession ; and

Après quoi le conseil général oui le procureur de la commune, a arreté ce qui suit.

ARTICLE I.

Les canons qui existent encore dans le chateau en cette commune seront transferer incessamment à St. Lo.

ARTICLE II.

Il sera nommé par le conseil des commissaires pris dans son sein pour se transporter sceanse tenant chez le citoyen Greene, Anglais, resident en cette commune, agent pour le ci-devant Prince de Monaco, à l'effet de s'assurer de sa personne, et des papiers dont il peut être saisi dans une perquisition exacte, et les verifier sur ses yeux en presence de conseil général au-qu'ell effet les citoyens Cauchard, maire, et Pierre André Regnaud, notable, ont été deputer et en même tems pour s'assurer des armes et munitions du dit Greene.

ARTI-

to bring them to the town-hall to be verified ; as also to seize his arms and ammunition.

After the general council had heard the town-clerk, they enacted as follows :

ARTICLE I.

The cannon remaining at the Prince's castle, in this town, shall be immediately transported to St. Lo.

ARTICLE II.

The general council will name commissaries, taken in their body, to transport themselves, during the present sitting, to the house of citizen Greene, an Englishman, agent to the late Prince of Monaco ; in effect, to seize his person and his papers ; and, after a strict search, to verify them in his presence, and in the presence of the general council : and therefore to that effect, they have named citizens Cauchard,
mayor,

ARTICLE III.

Sera le present arreté executé sur le champ
sauf a prendre toutes deliberations ulte-
rieure en plus outre.

La sceance tenante les citoyens Cauchard,
maire, et Regnaud, notable, ont fait leur rap-
port de leur mission chez le citoyen Greene,
et ont dit qu'ils ont saizi de sa personne et
qu'en sa presence ils ont fait perquisition dans
tous les appartements, coënuclcs, et ferma-
tures, qu'existent dans son habitation, qu'ils
se sont assurer de tous les papiers qu'ils ont
trouver de tout quoi le dit Greene a consen-
tir les verification et le transferement en
cette maison commune ou il les accompag-
ner lesquelles papiers il a fait apporter par son
domestique. Et pour la verifcarion des
dits papiers le conseil général a arreté que
le citoyen Jacques Rene Gautier, maitre
de langues, resident en cette ville, qui scait
Anglais, sera invité de se rendre à la maison
commune à l'effet de visiter ses memes pa-
piers

mayor, and Peter Andrew Regnaud, notable, to go, and at the same time to seize his the said Green's arms and ammunition.

ARTICLE III.

The present order shall be executed immediately, with an exception of any subsequent resolutions that may be thought necessary.

The fitting continuing, citizens Cauchard, mayor, and Regnaud, notable, have made the report of their mission to citizen Greene's, and declare they have seized his person, and that in his presence they have made a search in all the apartments, locked up drawers and closets that are in his house; that they have possessed themselves of all his papers; that the said Greene has consented to the verification and transportation of them to the town-hall; where he has accompanied them. And that for the verification of the said papers, the general council has

enacted

piers et instruire le conseil général de ce qu'ils peuvent contenir, sur la quelle invitation le citoyen Gautier s'est rendu, et a fait le depouillement en presence du conseil general des papiers du citoyen Greene.

Après quoi le citoyen Gautier a déclaré qu'il n'y a rien trouvé dans les papiers du dit Greene qui concerne directement ou indirectement a l'Angleterre et la France, qu'ils n'y s'agit point du tout des affaires de la révolution n'y de la République; il a même donné lecture en langue Française de dits papiers et il en résulté que le tout n'avait aucun trait à la république ce que le citoyen Gautier a affirmé véritable et à signé.

Le dit Greene est mis en liberté et s'est refaisi de ses papiers excepté une paquet a lui déposé le 14 Octobre, 1791, (vieux stile) signé le Pigoix, chirujien major, pour être decacheté après le mort de ce dernier.

(Signé)

*George Greene,
Cauchard, maire,
Rouland, procurer de la commune,
Ramachard, secretaire.*

enacted, that citizen James Rene Gautier, master of languages, resident in this town, and who knows English, shall be invited to come to the town-hall, to inspect the papers of the said Greene, in presence of the general council.

After which, citizen Gautier declared, that there is nothing in the papers of the said George Greene which concerns directly or indirectly either England or France; and there is nothing that regards the affairs of the revolution or the republic. He has likewise given a lecture on them in the French tongue, to the general council, and therein proves they do not any way affect the republic.

The said Greene is, therefore, set at liberty, and has again taken possession of all his papers, except one packet, left in his hands the 14th of October, 1791, (old style) signed Le Pegoux, surgeon major, which

which was not to be opened till after the death of the latter. *

(Signed)

George Greene,

Cauchard, mayor,

Rouland, town clerk,

Ramachard, secretary.

The infamous intentions of this villain were here again frustrated; but as I foresaw I should continually be exposed to his base and secret attacks, immediately upon being set at liberty, I requested the mayor and municipal officers to grant passports for me and my family to leave a country which was now become so very dangerous, and especially to an Englishman. After deliberating, they told me they could not take upon themselves to give passports for England, and they even doubted if they could if the

* The paper sealed and signed Pegoix, surgeon-major, was that person's will, wherein he had named me his executor and legatee.

deputy

deputy in mission would not oppose it, as Mr. Duval had insisted, in his name, that though liberated, I should be kept under the safeguard and the responsibility of the members of the commune. They advised me to address myself to the minister of the police, to whom I wrote immediately; but as yet I have received no answer, and I am afraid I have very little to expect, as by the same post I sent a letter to a friend at Paris, a Frenchman, begging him to apply to the minister for me; and he wrote me word that it was too dangerous a moment to intercede for an Englishman, as government was too much exasperated against England to receive favourably any reclamations from a British subject. Indeed this is not to be wondered at, as it is now the beginning of the reign of terror and dismay, when a number of acts of injustice are committed against individuals who, like myself, have no means of withdrawing themselves from its influence.

influence. I am, therefore, obliged to remain still exposed to the hostile attacks of an atheistical, ferocious, and sanguinary ruffian, who has violated every law, human and divine.

May you, my friend, and all my countrymen long enjoy the blessings of living under a government which protects alike the powerful and the weak; and where the meanest individual may with confidence claim the protection of the laws against violence, injustice, or oppression; is the ardent prayer of

Your's, &c.

FROM

Maison d'Arrêt, Torigny,

Oct. 30th, 1793.

FROM the tenor of my last, you will not be surpris'd to see from whence this is dated. From the character of my adversary, I could not expect he would give over the contest; if his malice lay dormant for awhile, it was only to blaze more violently when a favourable opportunity offered; and this he had not long to wish for. Previous to my arrest, I must mention what happened before the creation of those new Bastilles.

The establishment of committees of *surveillance* greatly contributed towards this tyrannical measure. This infernal institution, which of all engines that were ever placed in the hands of a despotic government, was surely the most effectual to overawe the citizens. The number and costs of these licens'd spies are no less extraordinary

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nary than their power, which authorises them, without assigning any reason but a suspicion of incivism, to enter the houses of all persons whom they please to say have been denounced to them, to seize upon their persons, break open their bureaus, and inspect their papers. The gross ignorance of these satellites of the dæmon of discord often proves the fatal arrest of a peaceable and worthy citizen. There are in France forty thousand communes, and each commune has its committee, containing upon an average ten members, whose pay is five shillings per day.

Since the establishment of these bloodhounds, which was in May last, terror has been the system, and requisition the word.

The arrests began here the fifth of October; for several days previous to this event the inhabitants, who had any thing to fear, have been by the different movements forewarned of their doom. The Prince's
castle

castle was looked upon as a proper place for the purpose; accordingly it was seized on; ammunition and arms were observed to be collecting in every quarter, the castle walls were ordered to be put in a state of defence; bands of men in the national uniform frequently performed military evolutions in the court of this mansion. All this hurry and bustle it was pretended resulted from an intention to overawe the foreign enemies of the republic, by convincing them it was able and unanimous in its preparations for their reception. But no one was the dupe of those suspicious appearances, as the arrests had already begun in the districts of Valogne, Coutance, Avranché, Mortain, and Carentan; many more might be added to the list, as every great town has its Bastille, and every Bastille its despot, who strengthens his sway by the appearance of duty, and tyrannizes under the pretence of obeying.

The illustrious owner of this house is arrested

rested and confined in a room in the ancient barracks of the French guards at Paris. He wished much to be transported hither ; but his request was cruelly refused. The arrests in this district and town began by those noble families whose political sentiments or relationship to the emigrants render them objects of suspicion : not only those who are distinguished by birth, fortune, or talents, are marked out as victims to the revolutionary furor, but even the humble peasant cannot hope to conceal himself under the veil of obscurity, his religious tenets suffice to render him culpable ; or rather there wants no other cause than to have a secret enemy in his committee of surveillance. The cruel denunciator, like the adder, lurks in secret to make his aim more securely ; convinced that his villainy will remain concealed under the impenetrable silence with which they form all their plots, he is continually watching the
oppor-

opportunity of evincing his patriotism by his frequent denunciations against all those whom he thinks cannot be partizans of the present system of government. Every energetic virtue seems hushed into a panic-struck fear ; every murmur silenced into the still voice of despair ; well assured that if it dared to rise it would hasten that fate which might have been retarded.

It was not till ten days after the formation of the maison d'arrêt that I was arrested, as the following extract from the registers of the keeper shows.

Extrait du Registre des Ecroux de la Maison d'Arrêt de Torigny.

George Greene, Isabella sa femme, et leur cinq enfans, scavoir, Isabella, Susan, Priscilla, Mary Ann, et Jean, ont été conduits en le maison d'arrêt le quatorzieme Octobre, 1793.

(Signé) Le Muir, Concierge.

TRANS-

TRANSLATION.

*Extract of the Register of the Maison
d'Arrêt of Torigny.*

The fourteenth of October, 1793, were conducted to this maison d'arrêt George Greene, Isabella his wife, and their five children, viz. Isabella, Susan, Pricilla, Mary Ann, and John.

(Signed) Le Muir, Keeper.

We were arrested at the request of my old inveterate enemy, citizen Duval. I had only twenty-four hours to settle my affairs; and, at the end of that period, was conducted to the castle by a piquet of the national guards. Our friends, who were already confined, flew to welcome us; and congratulated us on having left a world filled with discord and injustice. Indeed the gloomy horrors of our situation for ten days preceding our arrest, rendered even the

the abode of a prison chearful, after having had a great part of our friends torn from us, whilst fear made those who still enjoyed their liberty shun us, we could but rejoice at rejoining our acquaintances and tasting once again the charms of social intercourse.

I cannot help testifying my gratitude to the municipality of our town who, when they were obliged to send us to prison, at the requisition of the commissary, treated us with so much gentleness; and even, unsolicited, went to the district of St. Lo to reclaim us, declaring they would answer for us with their lives. To their humanity, probably, we owe our existence; and I shall ever recollect with gratitude that noble courage which led them, amidst the cruel impulse of revolutionary government, (the movements of which were accelerated as it went on) to pause and succour the unfortunate.

Our habitation has nothing of that gloom

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and

and darkness which we usually associate with the idea of a prison; and the house is peopled with the best society of the district. The ladies are attentive to the duties of their families and their toilets, the gentlemen are polite and assiduous to please, and the peasants quiet and obliging. The court of the castle, which is the only place we have allowed to walk and breathe the open air in, exhibits almost as much brilliancy and gaiety as the Thuilleries. Music and literature have their amateurs; the gentlemen and the ladies have their parties to dinner; and cards, dancing, or amusing games, beguile the evenings of their length; and thus the day of our captivity rolls on. The communication among the prisoners is perfectly free; they invite each other without any impediment; and even, for the first three weeks, the communication without was attended with very little difficulty. Owing to the humanity of the municipality,

nicipality, some received their wives and children; persons of both sexes met together; they all amused themselves as they liked; and every one fared as they thought proper; but by degrees, at the instigation of the committee of *surveillance*, the police of the house became more severe, and we were successively deprived of little comforts, which we much regretted. First, the communication with our friends abroad, so far as receiving the visits in our rooms, entirely ceased; it was soon a particular favour to talk with any one from out of doors, for a few minutes, upon the drawbridge. Soon after, the entrance of the newspapers was forbidden; and this prohibition was not one of those things which affected us the least: it is common enough, however, to have a newspaper smuggled in, and then it is privately handed about and sought after with anxious curiosity.

WE

November 27, 1793.

WE are now reconciled to our situation ; and place with cheerfulness our destiny in the hands of that Supreme Being whose peculiar care it is to protect the innocent and oppressed. Our captivity offers very little variety, as we have now no intercourse with the world ; we are even ignorant of what is passing in it ; and, as we have an agreeable society in our prison, each tries to forget, in the social enjoyments of friendship, and by mutual good offices, to soften the rigours of our captivity, which are now often augmented by the caprices of tyrannical commissaries, six of whom have been appointed by the committee of *surveillance* to superintend the interior of our prison, whilst a strong guard of the national troops watch over it without. It depends entirely upon these commissaries to make us, by some indulgencies, smile amidst the

the

the horrors of our confinement; or to increase the gloomy regret which each bosom feels in the separation from some absent friend. The number of unfortunate victims who weep over the loss of liberty, increases every day: no rank, no age, no sex is spared; and every genial tie of life is cruelly broken. Here the weeping mother trembles over the fate of a young family that she has left on life's tempestuous ocean; there the distracted spouse, torn from her dearer half, with uplifted and supplicating regards, seems to demand from Heaven that justice here denied her upon earth, whilst with eager impatience she waits for that moment when she may be permitted to steal a glance from him in whom all the cares of her bosom are centred. The noble and the peasant here experience a similar fate; and misfortune, in approaching those conditions, seems to have endeared them to each other. The rich here exercise all those benevolent

virtues

virtues which have lain dormant, perhaps,
 in the sunshine of prosperity. Our prison
 is the abode of humanity, philanthropy, and
 sympathetic friendship. Adversity ripens
 the fruits of reason, and unfolds the charms
 of sensibility. Each is taught by his own feel-
 ings to participate those of his companions.
 Though we are three hundred and sixty pri-
 soners, we appear but like one great family,
 so much union reigns throughout the whole.
 Our prison is, perhaps, the only one in
 the country where the baneful flame of dis-
 cord has not spread its infernal blast. The
 royalist and the patriot seem here to silence
 their mutual sentiments, or rather to sacri-
 fice them to the society at large; and
 though it is true, they do not keep mutual
 intercourse together, yet the spirit of party
 fomented no quarrels between them. We
 content ourselves with shunning those who
 have been noted to us as spies; but the
 poor and honest labourer is treated with
 all

all the kindness and affability that his misfortunes lay so just a claim to: are there any of those amusements going forward that we sometimes procure ourselves—they are always invited. And they, on their side, endeavour to perform all those little offices which render our situation more comfortable.

December 10.

An event had nearly taken place which would at once have put an end to our pleasures (if pleasures there can be when deprived of the charms of liberty) and to our cares. In the midst of this seeming calm, we were bordering upon the eve of destruction. Like that perfidious element whose wide expanse offers at one instant a surface smooth as chrystal, and the next, ruffled by the blasts of rude Boreas, swells its foaming billows to the clouds, and threatens with destruction the affrighted mariner: so, whilst we

were

were lulling under the soft hope of having our chains broken, our prison had like to have been transformed into a mass of ruins, and its unfortunate inhabitants hurled into an awful eternity. An attack was made upon Granville in this department; an attack which has proved so fatal to the royalists and their leader, Prince Tallmond, son to the Duke of Trimouile, one of the first families in France, who was taken prisoner and guillotined before the gates of his father's castle, and his bleeding head stuck upon the battlements. The loud roar of the distant cannon reached our ears; but we were ignorant from what quarter it proceeded, although we could not doubt but it was the two parties who were engaged. We saw a panic consternation appear upon the faces of our guards, whilst the softened looks, and behaviour of our commissaries, seemed to us a favourable omen; at the same time that the abject humility they assumed

assumed afforded us a momentary but innocent revenge. The condescension of one of them made us acquainted with what was passing in the neighbourhood; and every breast sent up a silent prayer to that Power in whose hands the palm of victory is placed, in favour of those whom we already looked upon as our deliverers. But these dawning hopes were soon to be crushed, or rather changed into the groans of despair. The continual movement of troops through the town had for some days past occupied our attention; and we soon after learned that an order had been issued for a levy *en masse*. The neighbouring peasantry were accordingly assembled in the town; and were very loud in their vociferations against the prisoners of the castle, swearing we were the cause of their being called from their homes and from their families, to be led to the field of danger and of battle. An ex-monk, one of the officers of the national guards,

guards, seized that moment of effervescence to inflame their minds still more against us, hoping, by his words, to animate them to assassinate us; he thus addressed them:

“ My brother soldiers and fellow citizens, haste; let us march to the defence of the republic, and the extermination of the rebels; but if you have any tendernefs for your wives and children, you will cut the throats of all the prisoners in the castle before you set off. Let us march against the enemy; but let us not leave behind us a band of villains to murder our wives and children.”

This had such an effect upon the raging rabble that one of them, more daring than the rest, ran, with a drawn sabre in his hand, towards the drawbridge, which separated our court from the place where they were assembled, swearing he would set them all an example, by killing the first aristocrat whom he should meet within the walls of
the

the castle. Happily for us, the guards, placed as centinels at that moment, were humane honest men, and resisted the attack until the municipality arrived and rescued us from danger and from death. The firmness of the municipal officers, and the courage and humanity of our guards, saved us from this assassinating attempt. But a few days the storm which had been gathering seemed ready to burst with redoubled fury over our heads. An army of ten thousand regular troops, headed by one of the ferocious deputies of the convention, in their march halted at Torigny ; and the sanguinary desires of this monster favoured well the hopes of those tigers who thirsted after our blood. The day after their arrival we saw several pieces of cannon drawn up and pointed against the castle, whilst the outward court was filled with armed men. Unsuspecting any danger, the prisoners thought this was done only with a view of manœuvering

manœuvring the soldiers ; and every one left his apartment and ran into the inner court to be a spectator of the scene. Like the harmless lamb, which, unconscious of danger, is led on skipping to its slaughter, so we gaily ran before death which was going to present itself with all its horrors. The distracted looks, and uplifted hands of a lady of the place, whose husband was confined in the castle, first awakened in our bosoms the sensations of fear : a gloomy horror succeeded ; each returned to his chamber in silent despair ; a moment more and the castle would have become a heap of ruins ! The inhuman order was given to blow it up ; and already the fatal matches were lighted, when the presence of one of the generals, who had heard of the plot carrying on against us, between the monk and the representative Le Planche, counteracted the order. The municipality hastened to us with the welcome news ; and once more

restored

restored us to our tranquillity, and banished those thick clouds of threatening evils which had for some time been hovering over our heads.

The winter is very mild, and heaven seems, in pity to our misfortunes, to compensate us for the cruel harshness of our fellow-creatures. The cold is not rigorous enough to detain us from walking in the court ; which, at the same time that it affords us an innocent recreation, preserves our health from being injured by confinement. It is at this moment that I cannot help thinking our situation is an enviable one, compared to that which our tyrants must feel amidst all their range of lawless power. With what remorse, if of remorse they are susceptible, must their bosoms be torn, while the loud reproaches of that secret inward monitor, whose reproaches can never be entirely stifled, must imbitter every joy, and break in upon the possession
of

of their boasted satisfaction; whilst conscious innocence supports my companions and myself in the midst of all their unjust persecution. It is that which will make us bear, with undaunted courage, all the new hardships which perhaps we have still to encounter.

Jan. 25th, 1794.

WE have had several new-comers this month, whilst several of our old companions, whose purses have not been entirely drained, have obtained the permission from the district of returning to their respective homes, with these restrictions, that they are never to stir out of their own houses, nor receive any of their friends, and to have a staunch citizen, chosen from the national guard, who is to be continually with them to inspect all their actions, and to whom they are to pay two shillings per day and his nourishment. We have all prophesied

sied that they will soon wish themselves with us again, as their confinement will be much closer than it is here. The fear of another attempt upon our lives, I perceive to be what actuates them; they flatter themselves they will be safer in not being so much exposed to the rage of a levy *en masse*; for, although we have been so fortunate as to escape their fury hitherto, it is hard to say, in these days of anarchy, what might be the event if another levy should take place.

The weather is still very mild for this season of the year; so much so, that the ladies walk every evening in the court; nay, they have even, by the silver light of the moon, gaily tripped the mazy dance in the same place; for three months captivity has not, in the least, deprived them of their usual flow of spirits. Indeed it must be said, to the honour of our fair companions, that they shew a great deal of courage in
sup-

supporting, without the slightest murmur, not only the privation of their liberty, but, perhaps, what is more to them, the loss of those numerous comforts which habit has rendered necessary. They shew equally as much fortitude as the men in bearing, without repining, the hardships of their situation : the thoughts of the dangers to which we are exposed do not prevent them from enjoying the festive moment ; they generally employ the morning in planning some scheme of entertainment for the evening ; thus their time passes without their ever complaining of its tediousness ; and, in the support of their misfortunes, they appear to shew themselves superior in philosophy to us men.

February 20th.

THE same severity still continues with regard to the intercourse with our friends who are at liberty. Two young gentlemen
came

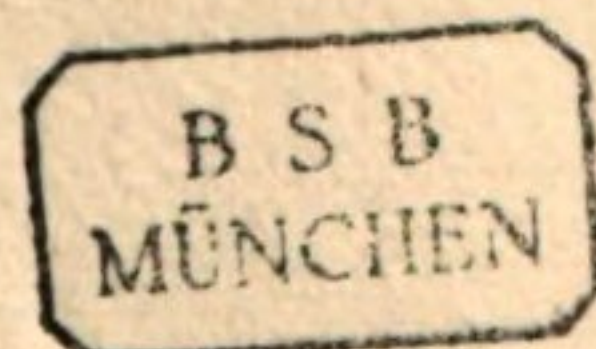
came some distance to see their aunts who were confined here ; but no intreaties could prevail upon the commissary to grant them an interview, for they reciprocally promised not to speak if he desired it, but all in vain. A commissary, if he is a member of *surveillance*, is a being deaf to the cries and feelings of humanity. Our provisions now undergo the most scrupulous inspection: nothing is suffered to pass, either to or from us, without the most minute examination. Our letters, from the first of our confinement, have always been opened and read before we received them ; and likewise those we write must pass through the commissaries' hands before they are delivered to the post.

March 16th.

Several shots were fired this last week early in the morning at some of the prisoners, as they were crossing the court ;

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but Providence has defeated the murderous intentions of the ruffians who did it, for no accident has happened. We have experienced, in more than one instance, the mercy of that Power who governs the universe, and in whose hands are the lives of his creatures. The latter end of February had likewise well nigh proved fatal to us: one of the prisoners had made so great a fire upon the hearth, that it had communicated to the room beneath, and set fire to it, but was happily extinguished without mischief.

April 24th.

THE beginning of this month was marked by an act of power of one of our petty tyrants, from which we are not yet recovered. But before I relate the circumstance, I must inform you of what gave rise to it. Godet, Archbishop of Paris, has just set the example to the republican clergy of resigning their

their functions, and renouncing the Christian religion. He presented himself at the bar of the convention, attended by his grand vicars, and there resigned his functions; stating there was no longer need of a religion, and that the only adoration of a people of philosophers should be the worship of reason. Many of the constitutional priests followed his example, abjured their former belief, and made a new confession of their faith, in which they declared that there was no other duty than liberty, no other gospel than the republican constitution, and no other worship than equality; that the profession of their lives had been imposture, and that, in giving up their letters of ordination, they renounced the Christian faith, and their ecclesiastical dignities. In consequence, a religious festival was instituted in honour of the goddess of Reason, personified in the form of a common prostitute, whose beauty was her only recommendation. This

has

has had a very great effect, at this instant, in France, where religious zeal begins to be extinguished, and an enthusiastic love of another kind has usurped its place—I mean the enthusiasm of liberty ; a juster definition would be anarchy ; or what they call civism, a sentiment which includes an inviolable attachment to the present form of government, and an abhorrence of monarchy. The consequence of this is, that our prison has received a new augmentation by the arrival of a number of priests jurors, who were not so entirely lost to all morality as to follow so infamous an example ; but as these new members are, notwithstanding, partisans of the new system, their arrival caused amongst us a momentary, though ungenerous exultation, of which we have had reason to repent. The president of the committee, thinking this a favourable opportunity to satisfy a vengeance he owed some of the persons in this prison, loudly accused them

them of the indecorum of their behaviour towards their fellow prisoners who were just arrived ; stung with indignation at these reproaches, and unable to bear the encroachment the committee was daily making upon the few indulgencies which we enjoyed, three or four gentlemen had the courage to resent those aspersions, and to vindicate our injured rights. He immediately accused of rebellion those unfortunate persons he wished to make his victims, and sent for the gendarmes*. The prisoners' names being called over, five of them were ordered to follow those who had come to arrest them ; four of the gentlemen obeyed without reluctance ; but the fifth, a gentleman of the town, refusing, the guard was called up to support the police. The horrors of the moment cannot well be described ; it was at the hour of our evening walk ; mute consternation was depicted upon every counte-

* Military horsemen who act as police officers.

nance ;

nance ; each seemed to feel as if he was himself going to be torn from the comforts which his present wretched existence still offered him, whilst every regard seemed fixed with a panic dread on the glittering weapons with which we were surrounded. But at length the tears and entreaties of his friends, trembling alike with alarm and grief, effectuated that which fear could not, and our unfortunate companion was prevailed upon to follow the gendarmes, and each of us who remained retired to our apartments with a full expectation of soon hearing for ourselves the dreadful summons. The savage monster's revenge, however, was satisfied for the moment with the present objects who were immediately transferred to the common prison at St. Lo. The municipality here again exerted themselves like men and like christians, and at the end of three weeks our five absent members were brought back again with orders from the district

district to confine them together under lock and key in one of the rooms of the castle. The rigorous manner in which they are confined and the dread of what still may happen has spread the gloom of horror on every brow. Those innocent diversions which helped to cheer the dreary moments are now no more. The walls of our prison which so lately resounded with the peals of mirth now re-echo back the sighs of plaintive melancholy. The small consolation of walking in the day-time is now denied us, for commissaries have been appointed to take an inventory of the Prince's effects; and we are ordered, upon pain of death, not to stir from our rooms whilst they are busy in the interior of that part of the house which is not occupied as a prison; so that we are obliged to walk at a late hour in the evening; and the moon sometimes shedding her mild benevolent beams upon us, gives a sort of solemn silence to the scene. Our

motley

motley groupe had also just been greatly augmented by the arrival of thirty-five devout unfortunate nuns ; who, in penance for their sins in refusing to take the civic oath, are turned all at once into so large a society ; to add still more to their mortification, they are, by order of the committee of *surveillance*, lodged amongst the decorations of the theatre ; and, to compleat the scene, our club of jacobins and our committee having differed in opinion, we have also immured with us some of the most exalted members of each party. Whoever has attended to the conduct and spirit of the jacobins may have remarked that, however popular any person has been among them, however greatly he may have distinguished himself by promoting their measures with zeal and ability, if he chances to be seized with a qualm of conscience at last, and hesitates to act with them in a single instance, all his past merit is forgotten, and he is execrated by the society as a determined enemy.

Our

June 18th.

Our chains become every day heavier. Despair, arrayed in her sable mantle, silently stalks through the long vaulted passages of our prison. Our eyes are now open to the tremendous dangers with which we are surrounded; for we have received news of what is passing in the capital, and the return to prison of our companions who had the permission to be at home with their guards, has withdrawn the veil which concealed from us the horrors which that more than fiend is perpetrating. One of our fellow captives having received secret intelligence that, in a few days, he was to be transferred to the fatal tribunal at Paris; and as self-preservation is one of the first laws of nature, he contrived to get the start of his persecutors; and watching an opportunity to evade the vigilance of the guards, made his escape. The next morning after he had effected it, the alarm was given in the town, and

and every prisoner underwent a strict examination; and although every one is rejoiced at his happy deliverance from the guillotine, yet we all feel severely the order that is issued by the members of the district, that we should retire to our apartments at nine in the evening. We now cease to delude ourselves with the flattering prospects of liberty. Our fate seems inevitably doomed; and each one tries to arm himself with becoming fortitude for that awful moment when the springs of life are to be broken, and every social tie forever dissolved; whilst every one tries to give his fellow sufferers that tender consolation that he himself stands so much in need of; and endeavours to lull their woes to sleep in a careless indifference, or to animate their minds to a philosophical courage, a courage to which the Princess Joseph of Monaco has at Paris just set so striking an example. This illustrious lady, daughter to
the

the late Duke of Choiseul Stainville, and daughter-in-law of the present Prince of Monaco, having been condemned by the revolutionary tribunal to be guillotined, pleaded pregnancy, and was accordingly remanded back again to prison, where, on her arrival, she cut off her beautiful tresses; and the next morning sent word the operation, which she could not think of undergoing by the hands of the executioner,* being now performed, she avowed she was not with child, and declared she had made use of that subterfuge to prepare herself for execution. She was accordingly conducted to the bloody scaffold, where, with her last breath, she told the deluded populace they would soon be undeceived in their sanguinary tyrants.

* The hair was always cut off before the person was guillotined; and in France, it is thought a dishonour to be touched by the hands of the executioner.

The

July 10th.

The carts are now made for the transporting many of the prisoners of this house to the fatal tribunal. They stand in a court just under our windows ready to take their death-devoted passengers. The list of proscriptions, on which the names of sixty of our unfortunate companions are inscribed, is hanging about within our walls. The day before yesterday, at about five o'clock in the afternoon, some of the prisoners had left their rooms to enjoy in the court a little fresh air; they had hardly made two turns when the officer of the guard presented himself and gave orders to the centinel to fire upon them if they did not retire immediately. It is difficult to credit, without being an eye-witness, such an instance of unprovoked barbarity; as thus wantonly to sport with the lives of one's fellow-creatures. Would one not think that, instead of living amongst beings of a kindred nature,

nature, we are surrounded by fell monsters who eagerly seek to quench their direful thirst in human blood. Again the homicide project was defeated by the sentinel's unwillingness to obey the cruel mandates, and by the prisoners retiring quickly to their chambers.

August 7th,

THAT all-protecting Power who seems to have made our prison his peculiar care, and who has so often snatched us from the impending storm, has now in his infinite mercy finally disconcerted the projects of our dangerous enemies. The ninth of Thermidor * has saved us from the jaws of death. Robespierre and his monstrous government are now no more. The death of this wretch, who has transformed a once smiling land into the abode of despair and devastation; who at one blow cut down youth, beauty, genius,

* July 28.

genius, virtue, wisdom, and whatever is estimable and lovely, is an event which has opened every heart to the soft impressions of hope. Our prison resounds with joy: we please ourselves with the cheering hopes of once more enjoying the sweets of liberty. It is hardly possible to conceive the pleasurable sensation this idea conveys with it. This happy revolution has been brought about by the co-operation of two powerful parties; the one external, or in the convention, at the head of which was Talien and Bourdon de l'Oise; and the other internal or in the committee of public safety, and directed by Barrere, Billaud, Varennes, and Collot d'Herbois. The present government of France is a mere phantom, competent only to evil, and incapable of good; her great leaders are banded against each other not only from the most deadly hatred, and the lust of dominion, but separated by the most extravagant zeal for contradictory theories

theories of government, whilst the people are tossed to and fro, the alternate victims of repugnant and desolating changes. The thirst for governing was the irresistible motive of seizing upon the persons and property of its subjects; and thus numerous classes of men, possessed of dignities and wealth, have been chased from this country, or swept off the face of the earth. Revolutions engender miseries; and after that, the philanthropist vainly searches for the fatal spot on which he may shed a tear of pity over the sacred shade of murdered innocence. Our petty tyrants now cringe where they have been for many months accustomed to oppress. We have again the permission of seeing our friends. They tell us that it is a miracle we have escaped, as the deputy of the convention, who has been in mission in our department, is a well-chosen satellite of the tyrant Robespierre, his name is Le Carpentier. As he was
passing

passing one day through Valogne, the native town of his new dignified consort, and where she had exercised the high and honourable profession of laundress, Madam, seated by her husband's side, in one of the late king's coaches, drawn by six horses, and escorted by forty hussars, gave orders to the cortege to move slowly that, as she said, her people might be gratified with the sight of her now dignified person. This villain, we learn, has sent innumerable persons from all the other districts in this department, except that of St. Lo, in which this town is situated, to the guillotine; and amongst others, an unfortunate lady named Segville, who was wife of an emigrant, and mother of eleven children. Not content with immolating the living, he has raked up even the ashes of the dead. He gave orders, in particular to destroy the magnificent mausoleum of the Prince's family at Torigny. All the monuments were torn
down;

down; the bones of the dead exposed to view, and commingled with the ruins of their tombs; the names, statues, and armoriais being defaced, and the coffins taken away and converted into bullets. Amongst the corpses the body of a Bishop of Lisieux was found entire, although he had been buried one hundred and thirty years; and those sacrilegious monsters tore it from its leaden case and threw the ashes into a hole without any coffin to contain them, as, in the moving of the body, it crumbled into dust. Every humane and sensible mind was affected with horror on seeing the savage indecency with which the remains of this holy pastor was treated. The festival of the goddess of reason has been celebrated every decade during the reign of terror; and the lady, who sways the affections of my mortal enemy, Duval, presided as her representative in this town. Having appeared in a most indecent manner in the temple,

as she was passing near the ballustrades of our prison, I unfortunately presumed to advise her to reflect upon her conduct. The next day, her Corydon obtained an order for my close confinement to my chamber for ten days; and threatened to send me to Paris for my reward. The lady, who was present, vented a little of that patriotic eloquence which at that time was so peculiar to those patriotic reasonable goddesses; for of all the modern French patriots, the female patriot is the worst: if you were to see them! if you were to hear them! to see the fire that flashes from their eyes when their favourite tenets are controverted! if you could hear the torrent of acrimonious accusation and virulent invective which they pour fourth! In fact, to form any judgment of them you must borrow your ideas from the heathen mythology, and form to yourself the figures of Aleto, Typhoea, and Mægæira, brandishing their scorpion rods,

rods, and hurling their flaming brands. You have read of the fury of the Bacchanals and the rage of the Parthian dames; and were it possible that my adverse fate should ever place me in the power of this lady, who is one of those democratic zealots, I doubt whether I should meet with a milder fate than the lover of Euridice.

September 16th.

THE bare recollection of the past has rendered more precious the change that has been made in our situation. Our breasts once again expand to those social enjoyments which had so often charmed away the hours of our captivity. Fresh hope every day animates us with its chearful rays, and the prospect of liberty makes us bear with patience the arrival of the deputy who is announced as coming into the department with an authority to break our chains. Now is it permitted to the faithful spouse to
review

review the object of her tender affections; to speak the soothing language of sympathetic friendship; whilst she points his enraptured regards to that moment when round his encircling hearth he will once again reunite those objects that have so often forced from his eyes the burning drops of poignant anguish and bitter sorrow, whilst filial piety enjoys again the pleasing satisfaction of fulfilling those duties which virtue looks upon as sacred.

October 21st.

THE prison doors are now opened to the greater part of the persons confined. The charms of liberty dawn once more upon them, and lead them once again to the peaceful scenes of domestic felicity. But for me and my family, we are still confined; still do we linger out the tedious moments in captivity. As soon as the deputy arrived, I sent off a friend to solicit my liberation; but

but when he heard it was an application for an English family, he would not, he said, meddle in the business; and even threatened my friend for interfering. It would be useless I am certain to send to Paris a simple reclamation, without having some one upon the spot to present it; I must therefore wait patiently a few weeks longer; at that period, a very worthy gentleman, who has some acquaintance in the convention, is going from this town, and has assured me he will employ his interest to procure my liberation.

November 4th.

My friend is now set off; and the municipality, who have always shewn an inclination to serve me, have furnished him with certificates and reclamations in my favour; and I have reason to hope his generous exertions will be crowned with success. Although I have remained alone, almost, with
my

my family in the castle, these last three months, there has nothing offered worth mentioning. The dull uniformity of our days, and the dreary winter's evenings, make us feel ourselves quite comfortless. Now that we have appeared deprived of the hopes of soon seeing an end to our confinement, the solitude of the house, the deserted court where we had been accustomed to seek the sympathetic foothings of friendship, seemed but to increase our melancholy.

An opportunity has just offered, by means of some English sea-captains, who are returning home upon parole, to send this series of letters, which I embrace with pleasure, without waiting to inform you of the success of my petition to the legislature, as it is already so voluminous that I am afraid you will never have patience to go through it.

Adieu.

I HAVE

January 24th, 1795.

I HAVE this day received a letter from my friend, wherein he tells me his endeavours have been crowned with success, and that to-morrow will bring my delivery, which has, however, this day arrived, and is as follows ;

CONVENTION NATIONALE.

Comité de Sureté Générale.

Du trent nivose l'an trois de la republique Française, une et indivisible. Vu les pieces et les different certificates de la commune de Torigny en faveur du George Greene, Anglais, sa femme, ses quatre filles, et un petit garçon de douze ans, tous les sept détenu a Torigny. La comité areté sur la reclamation de la commune de Torigny et celle de citoyen Renaud *representant du peuple*, que le citoyen George Greene et sa famille feront sur le champ mis en liberté

sur

sur la surveillance de la commune, et les scelles levées au vu du présent ordre, et jouiront chacun de quarante sols par jour depuis le commencement de leur détention jusqu'ils soient mis en liberté définitivement.

L'agent national de la commune et les autorités constitués sont chargés de mettre à l'exécution le présent arrêté les représentant du peuple membres du comité de sûreté générale.

(Signés) *Hermand, Garnier de L'Aube,*
Boudin, I. S. Rovere,
L'Omont, Le Gendre.

TRANSLATION.

NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Committee of General Safety.

January 20th, 1795, third year of the French republic, one and indivisible. Having examined the different certificates of the
commune

commune of Torigny in favour of George Greene, (an Englishman) his wife, his four daughters, and a boy twelve years old, all seven of them detained at Torigny. The committee, upon the reclamation of the commune of Torigny, and of citizen Renaud, representative of the people, order that citizen George Greene and his family shall be set at liberty immediately, under the safeguard of the municipality, and that the seals shall be taken off his effects the moment this order is notified: that they shall each receive twenty-pence a day, commencing from the date of their detention, till they shall be compleatly liberated.

The national agent of the commune, and the constituted authorities, are ordered to put into execution the present order of the representatives of the people, members of the committee of general safety.

(Signed) *Hermant, Garnier de L'Aube.*
Boudin, I. S. Rovere,
L'Omout, Le Gendre.

Thus

Thus am I once more restored to liberty ; and was their paper money of any value, I should, if not indemnified for the loss of liberty, have been at least repaid part of my pecuniary expences incurred by that privation. But although I receive two hundred and sixty odd pounds in assignats, they will not produce specifically a tenth part of that sum, as every thing you purchase is in proportion to the loss upon that paper, as you may judge when I tell you that, for a pound of meat the butcher leaves you the choice to pay half-a-crown in paper or three-pence in specie. The mischief of the commercial and political evil of a vast circulation of assignats is evident. That œconomy which was one of the most valuable characteristics of the French, is now comparatively disregarded. The people, who receive what they earn in a currency they hold in contempt, are more anxious to spend than to save ; and those who formerly hoarded

hoarded fixpence with great care, would think it folly to hoard an assignat, whatever its nominal value, and all this destructive prodigality is excused to others and themselves *parce que ce n'est que du papier**. The legislature has long ago rendered the paper circulation compulsory in all payments, which has opened a wide field for fraud and injustice. Their discredit is excessive. Debtors and annuitants are forcing their creditors to take them in payment. Those strenuous partizans of the revolution, the peasants, fearful of being compelled to take in exchange for their corn a money, in the security of which they have no faith, keep back their grain from the markets; and detachments of the national guards search daily the adjacent villages without finding a single quarter of corn. The farmers, who have yet been able to conceal any, refuse to dispose of it for assignats; and

* Because it is nothing but paper.

the poor, who have neither plate or money, exchange their best cloaths or linen for a loaf, or a small quantity of flour. At a time when the exigencies of the state have been great enough to be made the pretext of a dreadful revolution, the farmers are not only almost exempt from contributing to its relief, but are enriched by the common distress; and whilst the rest of their countrymen behold with unavailing regret their property gradually replaced by scraps of paper, the peasants, becoming insolent and daring by impunity, refuse to sell but for specie, and are daily amassing wealth. Some fatal catastrophes have taken place near this town which, although unconnected with any political events, yet will evince the inhuman *sang-froid* with which those act who call themselves republicans. A gentleman, who has already lost most of his sons either by the guillotine, or in the cause of honour, loyalty, and humanity, had three daughters, who

who had escaped the wreck, and were at home with their parents. The youngest, a blooming maid of fifteen, looking through a window which fronted the high-road, perceived a body of republican troops coming towards the house; unconscious of the impending danger, she continued to gaze, when one of this lawless band levelled his gun at her, and which, too sure in its aim! gave her time only to call to her mother, and expire! Not many days after, in a neighbouring parish, another inhuman murder was committed by a party of soldiers, who introduced themselves into the house of a venerable old gentleman, whom they found seated with his wife, by their social fire-side, perhaps recalling to their minds the commencement of their love, and successively passing over each pleasing event of their lives. Little did the unhappy wife dream that the venerable partner of all her joys, the soother of each

anxious

anxious care, would in a few minutes lay a bleeding and mangled corpse; that she should be witness of the sad spectacle; behold, in spite of her screams and entreaties, the barbarous wretches plunge the pointed bayonet into his faithful bosom! Although my own family affairs at this juncture occupy me deeply, and misfortune presses heavily upon me; and though adversity blunts, in some measure the fine feelings of the soul, yet it would be shewing a total want of humanity not to heave a sigh over such *sanguant* scenes as these. The death of the worthy benevolent Prince of Monaco at this time has heaped up the measure of my woes. I now see myself in a foreign country, without any probability of returning home, and deprived of the only resource I had here. The loss of that generous man will be severely felt by me in the present moment. The many proofs I received of the goodness of his heart will
ever

ever leave in my bosom an impression which time can never efface. The greatest part of his fortune had been sequestered before his death, on account of the emigration of his youngest son prince Joseph, so that when his eldest son the Duke of Valentinois, should have succeeded to his father's estate, he finds those immense possessions which he ought to have been possessed of, fallen into the hands of the rapacious and all-devouring hands of the republic, whilst he himself is not only deprived of the means of supporting the dignity of his rank, but reduced to a situation bordering upon penury and want, without the liberty of disposing of any one of those things which he ought by birth-right to have called his own, and obliged to deprive himself not only of the luxuries due to his rank, but even of many of the necessaries common to every class of people. Let the unhappy victim of misfortune in our country, who, weighed down
by

by the iron hand of adversity and indigence, heaves the deep heart-rending sigh of woe, let him contemplate the strange vicissitudes of fortune which this fatal revolution has made in those of the first rank and dignities in France, and let him not be ashamed to borrow a lesson of patience, submission, and courage from a nation which he has been accustomed to look upon not so capable of philosophical resignation as his own.

Torigny, Nov. 14th, 1795.

SINCE the fall of Robespierre, the French government has gradually lost its appearance of open violence to assume the characteristic of mysterious tyranny; and the prevailing party, by means of spies and military terror, succeeds in casting a veil over the motives of those actions which, while impunity can be secured and till some new revolution shall expose the mysteries of their iniquity, will baffle the researches of the enquirer. Between the parties who assisted each other in overthrowing the monster, there was by no means a real and sincere union, each of them was too desirous of governing to suffer the idea of the other's seizing the reins which his ambition coveted to guide; and it is more than probable that the political views of each were different. It is not long ago that a conflict arose amongst them and terminated in denouncing those members of the committee of public

lic safety who had co-operated in bringing about the fall of the tyrant ; in consequence, Barrere, Billaird, Varrennes, Collot d'Herbois, and Vadier were taken into custody. The latter having effected his escape, it was decreed that the three first should be transported to Guiana, and set off immediately. In the course of their journey through this department, I had the pleasure of seeing them pass in an iron cage, where they appeared like ferocious tigers, shut up for fear of their doing more mischief.

The convocation of the primary assemblies for the purpose of accepting the new constitution, soon blew up new flames of discord at Paris. Several sections, although they were unanimous in the acceptation of the constitution of 1795, yet they firmly refused to submit to the laws for the re-election of the two thirds of the present convention into the legislative body, and that of the power of the convention in default of
such

such re-election by the departments to constitute itself into an elective body, and fill up the deficiency by its own nomination; wherefore, on the fifth of last month, the sections assembled and marched against the convention; but they were routed, dispersed, and several slain or taken prisoners. At this juncture, I happened to be passing through Caen, when that town was all in commotion. One party preparing to march to Paris to join the sections, the other taking every means to prevent them. Consequently, orders were given to bring all travellers to the municipality in order to have their passports examined. The moment mine was presented, and it was understood I was an Englishman, an unanimous cry was heard of, behold, the emissaries of Pitt are already in motion! I was ordered to return to my inn, and there wait the decision of that august body. Evening coming on, and hearing nothing from them,

I ven-

I ventured again to approach the town-hall ; but my answer was they could take no deliberations until the next morning. I was in consequence obliged to wait, and, at the appointed time, again presented myself, when I was asked if any one in the town would answer for me. As I well knew, my acquaintance being of the aristocratic party, I might only endanger them by betraying a knowledge of any one, I answered I knew nobody there ; but solicited, in case my passport was not satisfactory, I might, under an escort of two gendarmes, paid by myself, be permitted to return to Torigny. However, fortunately for me, one of those wise and judicious members asked me if I knew such a person as he named at Torigny, who you may be sure, from the question, was a staunch patriot. I replied, I knew him very well ; and that he had a daughter who lived servant with some family at Caen. My interrogator immediately answered,

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as you know that person, I am sure you are a good patriot, and I myself will answer to my brother officers for your conduct. This was sufficient to obtain the endorsement necessary to continue my journey. I only mention this circumstance to shew upon what slight grounds of suspicion they stop people, and with how much slighter securities they set them at liberty again.

By the defeat of the sections the just and reasonable opposition which the citizens were making to the arbitrary mandates of the convention are crushed; no farther opposition was made; and the convention enjoyed the liberty in declaring that the votes in the departments were in favour of the two laws of Fructidor that the sections had sought to oppose.

The convention finished its last sitting on the 27th of October. Thus terminated the meeting of the second legislature. A body of men who had impiously dared to lift their
sacri-

sacrilegious hands against the life of their lawful sovereign, and deluged their country with blood, their names will descend to posterity branded with everlasting infamy in the pages of history.

After the verification of their powers, the members of the new legislature formed themselves into two councils; the one called the council of ancients, composed of two hundred and fifty members above forty years of age; and the other, without this restriction, of five hundred persons, taking the name of the council of five hundred. Out of these two councils five persons were to be chosen as members of the executive power, under the name of directory. The first five were Reubel, Revellier Le Paux, Sieyes, Barras, and La Tourneur de la Manche; but Sieyes having resigned, Carnot was elected in his stead. The Luxembourg palace has been appointed for the residence of this executive power, and from thence

thence has added to its former name that of directorial palace. Thus then has the constitution been new formed, and thus are the French people again meekly bending beneath the most absurd and cruel oppressions, transmitted from one tyrant to another, without personal security, without commerce or money, oppressed by a dreadful famine, and desolated by a government whose ordinary resources are pillage and murder.

Charette, the commander of one part of the Vendean army, having made his peace with the republic, this army has been disbanded; and detached parties of it, who would not consent to the laying down their arms, came near the heart of this department and assassinated a great number of constitutional priests and municipal officers; and it is wonderful the panic they struck upon the inhabitants of the country villages in our neighbourhood. Two persons only
after

after murdering the mayor, a furious jacobin, forced a party of the women of the village to enter the municipality and bring out the registers and records, whilst they forced another party of the same sex to bring faggots and set fire to them: and although the tocsin or alarm bell was ringing every where around, absolutely had the courage to stay until all the papers were consumed. In an army composed of so heterogeneous a multitude as Charette commanded, no wonder if numbers came under and really merited the name of banditti, an assumption of whatever degree sounded the alarm by which their leaders instigated them to any new undertaking that their present views might inspire.

In this neighbourhood, these parties have in some measure for the moment cured the patriots of deifying knaves, worshipping prostitution in their polluted temples of reason, and decapitating virtuous rulers. Whilst
they

they were thus roving in this vicinity, happening to be upon the road to pass the evening at a friend's house in a lonely part of the country, I was stopped by a patrol of patriot troops, who, after examining my papers, and finding them signed by the proper authorities, suffered me to pass unmolested; but I had not gone a hundred paces, before a detachment of these royalists overtook me and would fain have persuaded me to return with them and attack the republican party who had stopped me, which however from prudence I declined. They then insisted upon escorting me in safety to my journey's end, which, for fear of bringing a suspicion upon my friend, I was likewise forced to refuse.

About the latter end of this summer, the republicans of this neighbourhood signalized their barbarity and treachery towards a party of royalists who had taken refuge at a farmhouse in an adjacent village. Betrayed by
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the wretch who had offered them shelter, the national guards of Torigny and its environs marched against them; and to render all means of escape impossible, they set fire to the house in which the royalists were assembled. These unhappy persons, awakened by the raging of the flames, amidst the scene of confusion which reigned around them, were unable to defend themselves, and fell an easy prey into the hands of their perfidious enemies, who immediately conducted them to the neighbouring town of Bayeux, where, to the number of thirty-seven, they were all shot in cold blood.

Bread is now become so scarce that the municipalities of great towns are forced to take compulsory measures with the farmers to make them bring their corn to market; and troops are continually searching in the villages for grain, which the husbandmen are as active in concealing. Paris is almost brought to a state of famine; a violent requisition,

quisition, therefore, has taken place. The neighbouring departments are ransacked to supply that city with provisions; and the department of Seine and Marne alone were ordered to furnish 200,000 septiers of corn within two decades. In this part of Normandy, we are reduced to a certain ratio each person per day, and are obliged to produce a licence, signed by the municipal officers, to the bakers, before they dare even to deliver that small quantity; and no one is suffered to eat white bread but those who can obtain from the officers of health a certificate that their stomachs are too weak to digest the black mixture which is furnished under the denomination of bread. The commissaries of the army in this neighbourhood, put all the articles which are necessary for its supply, as wheat, oats, hay, straw, and wood, into requisition, and they oblige the unhappy defrauded peasant to carry them to the different magazines without any other

other payment than a scrap of paper, bearing an acknowledgement at the peace. The people, quite indifferent to war and politics, think only of averting the horrors of a famine, and the same newspaper that announces the surrender of a town, and the success of battles, tells us that the poor die for hunger in the streets of Paris. My family have suffered a great deal already from the scarcity of this first article of subsistence; we have been several times, and several days together, without tasting a bit of bread; and the season of the year prevents us from seeking a substitute for it in our gardens. The want of bread, as it is the most necessary, is what we feel the most; but every other article is in proportion, butcher's meat excepted.

May you, my friend, ever be preserved from the hardships I have innocently suffered in this country, is the sincere wish of

Your's, &c.

THE

Torigny, April 24th, 1796.

THE unjust and impolitic decree which has impoverished France, and contributed more than any other cause to the scarcity of food : the law that fixed a maximum on the price of provisions and merchandize, is now repealed ; and the consequence is, that most of the articles of life, except bread, are now to be found in greater abundance. Just before the law was repealed, a circumstance occurred in the town which tended to shew the honesty and justice that actuates many of the partizans of the commonwealth. A poor Breton pedlar, travelling the country with linen cloth, manufactured at that province, where even in the most violent moments of the revolution, the inhabitants had almost universally refused to conduct their commercial engagements by means of assignats ; the pedlar, passing here, was called in by

by the secretary of the late committee; and being asked the price, the man, as he thought he should be paid in specie, replied thirteen-pence per yard. The buyer immediately ordered him to give fourscore yards, and then tendered him the value in assignats. The poor fellow refusing to take them, he carried him immediately before a justice of the peace, who not only obliged him to take the money tendered, which was not a tenth part of the value the article had cost, as the poor man declared he had paid for it in money; but as a farther aggravation of his misfortune, they committed him to prison for his refusal.

As the finances of the republic, notwithstanding their extensive conquests, and immense pillage which their armies have made, are rapidly on the decline; and the paper money is now fell into such discredit that its loss is cent per cent. The legislature is constantly devising some new means of replacing

placing them and cajoling the people; they have discovered that many of the royalists had in their possession a vast number of assignats with the royal face upon them, which they had kept in preference to the others, imagining, as they had been sanctioned by the king they were more likely to be paid in case of a counter-revolution. A decree has been passed which forbids their circulation, and orders them to be brought into the treasury and exchanged at a very great loss for others marked with the republic insignia; but this not answering their purpose, they have issued a new paper, called rescriptions, which are orders on the treasury at certain epochs for hard money; but so lost is public credit, and so slight public confidence, that these means have served only as a temporary interregnum between the assignats and a new fabrication of paper money called *mandats*, which lost at its birth one fourth of its value, and soon

after

after four fifth, although it was declared by the legislature to be equal to hard money and to be taken as such in payment of the national domains which were to be paid for by instalments; and to withdraw from circulation the assignats at the rate of thirty to one, and the public lands remaining unfold are to be mortgaged for the remainder.

The nun's convent, with ten acres of meadow, a large orchard and gardens in this town, is just bought for sixteen thousand livres* of this paper money, and the fruit and the materials were sold immediately by the purchaser for half the money the whole purchase cost.

This decree has produced little effect. The credit of paper money is too far sunk to be raised by such expedients, and the legislature, after tampering with their original engagements towards the public by new ne-

* A livre is equal to ten-pence British money.

gociations,

gotiations are forced at last to apply a more effectual remedy, by ordering the last payment of these lands, which is one fourth of the original purchase, to be paid in money ; and thus are those unconscientious purchasers of unjustly sold property, the dupes of their own avaricious speculations.

The assembly of jacobins and terrorists are now dispersed by order of government, their places of meeting shut up, and most of the jacobins who were placed in office immediately under government are discharged, and the police and the municipalities, where they had an influence, have undergone a severe scrutiny ; indeed, things have taken quite a favourable turn, and there appears an intention of the present government to adopt more lenient measures than their predecessors. The parents and relations of emigrants are permitted to enjoy provisionally a certain part of their property. The Duke of Valentinois, under the name

L. and

and title of citizen Grimaldi, has liberty once more to inhabit his castle, and to enjoy the benefit of such part of his estates as remain unfold. And he has not neglected to convince me how much he was satisfied with my conduct in my transactions for his late illustrious father. I have just received a letter of which I here transcribe you a copy.

Paris, 18 Pluvioze, l'An 4.

J'AI reçu, Monsieur, votre lettre de courant avec celle qui y étoit incluse pour Monsieur Grimaldi. Je suis chargé de sa part de vous prier que vous re-preniez les fonctions relative à l'administration que vous étoit ci-devant confié, étant bien persuadé que vous les remplirez avec le même zèle, et la même exactitude, que par le passé. Ainsi vous pouvez vous concerter avec Monsieur de le Verderie sur les moyens de vous mettre en activité le plutôt possible.

Je

Je vous prie de ne pas douter de la sincérité des sentiments et d'attachement avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être,

Monfieur,

Votre très affectionné serviteur,

MOUSSIER.

TRANSLATION.

Paris, Feb. 8th, 1796.

I HAVE received, Sir, your last letter, with one enclosed for Monfieur Grimaldi. I am charged by him to desire you to take up again the functions in respect to the administration which was before entrusted to your care; he being persuaded you will discharge them with the same zeal and exactitude as you have formerly done. You will therefore consult with Mr. De le Verderie upon the means of putting you as soon as possible into activity. I beg of you not

not to doubt the sincerity and friendship
with which I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your affectionate servant,

MOUSSIÉR.

Thus was I once more, after being three years unemployed, put again in possession of a place which, I flatter myself, I should never have been dispossessed of, had it not been for the destructive revolution. And, as good or bad fortune seldom affects me by one single stroke, another event has just taken place which much contributes to an increase of our present happiness. My eldest daughter is just married to a gentleman of fortune in this neighbourhood. This event has produced the following flattering letter from the Duke, which shews what interest he takes in my welfare, and how desirous he is to retain me in his service.

J'AI

Paris, le 18me Mars, 1796.

J'AI été fort aise d'apprendre, mon cher Monsieur Greene, l'heureux evenement que vous etes sur le point de conclure en donnant votre fille en mariage à un gentilhomme honnete, possédant une propriété agréable, aussi près du lieu que vous habitez que Saint Lo. J'espere que cela ne vous empechera point de me continuer vos soins en veillant toujours avec le même zele à mes interets et aux ouvrages que vous avez commencé, et qu'il me tarde bien d'aller voir par moi-même en nous promenant ensemble. Recevez en je vous prie l'assurance ainsi que celle des sentimens que vous m'avez inspiré.

HONORE GRIMALDI.

I WAS

TRANSLATION.

Paris, March 18th, 1796.

I was very happy to hear, my dear Mr. Greene, the pleasing event that you are on the point of concluding, in marrying your daughter to a gentleman possessing a good estate, so near the neighbourhood of your abode as St. Lo; and I hope that will not hinder you from continuing, with the same zeal for my interests, in the operations you have just begun; and which I long much to come and see in our walks together. Receive, I pray you, the esteem and sentiments with which you have inspired me.

HONORE GRIMALDI.

The comforts which this change in my affairs afford me, seem heightened by the general hilarity and tranquillity that reigns around the neighbourhood. Anarchy appears

appears overthrown, and cruelty and rigour
 appear no more the order of the day. The
 lenity with which the new government
 seems to conduct themselves, restores the
 smile of gaiety, and opens a prospect to hap-
 pier days. The honest man no longer
 groans under the fear of the guillotine.
 The posts of government appear open to
 him; and the two hated distinctions of aris-
 tocrat and democrat seem absorbed in
 the general name of citizen and brother.
 To compleatly crown our joy, a report has
 been spread that the English cabinet, by
 the agency of its envoy in Switzerland, has
 communicated to the French government a
 series of propositions relative to a general
 pacification, in which no one will more
 heartily rejoice than

Your's, &c.

THE

Torigny, Dec. 19th, 1797.

THE funny beams which so lately gladdened the hearts of these unfortunate people, and roused them from the kind of stupor into which the horrors of the year ninety-three had plunged them, are now sunk behind the dark clouds which surround the directorial throne, from whence Tyranny, with his iron sceptre, dispenses nought but oppression, cruelty, and desolation.

The Duke and his son, Prince Honore, arrived here this spring ; and as the cannon of Fructidor had not then roared, with them came the merry dance, the jovial song, and the pleasures of the comic muse. The town was full of company ; satisfaction smiled upon every countenance, as the calmness of the moment lent a healing balm to those wounds which so many had received. Little, ah ! little did any of us think that the unpropitious eighteenth of Fructidor*

* Fifth of September.

was

was to bring with it the most dreadful circumstances of another change of government, a change so unexpected, and which crushes at once all our fair hopes : we are again cast upon the tempestuous ocean, from whose storms we fondly hoped we were securely sheltered in a peaceful harbour, where justice and lenity would defend us from the rude blasts of revolutionary phrenzy. But before I touch upon this event, with your permission I will return to the fifth of March ; on that day, when the councils drew the important lots which were to deprive a third of the members of their seats in the legislature. The elections were in general peaceably conducted ; and from the choice of electors, we had every reason to expect the continuance of the calm we enjoyed. On the twentieth of May, the new members were introduced to the councils ; and the day before they assembled, the directory decided

by

by lot the change which was to take place in one of their body. The die fell on Le Tourneus de la Manche, which turned him out of the directorial chair. Many lenient decrees were passed in favour of those who had been persecuted, and extensive was the hope that enlivened every feeling breast; but, unfortunately, part of the directory soon threw off the mask and began to intimate their future intentions by making an entire change in the ministry. Cochon, minister of the police, who was suspected to be too well disposed to the emigrants, was changed for Le Carlier. De la Croix, minister for foreign affairs, gave place to Talleyrand Perigord. Truguet, minister of the marine, was succeeded by Pleville Pelay; Petiet, minister of war, by Le Hoche; and Benezeck, minister of the home department, by François Neufchatel. The council of ancients, in this extraordinary crisis, endeavoured, much to their honour, to act as mediators

mediators between the contending parties; but the flame of discord was too much illuminated for their endeavours to be crowned with success; and, unfortunately for the well-meaning part of the community, the execrable directory rose triumphant over its enemies. Under pretence of a conspiracy, fifty-six of the legislative body, with Carnot, and Barthelemi, directors; Brotier, ex-abbé; Laville Heurnois, ex-magistrate; Dunan Cochon, late minister of the police; Duffonville, late clerk to the police; Miranda, ex-general; Suard, ex-journalist; Mailhy, ex-conventional; and Ramel, commandant of the guard of the legislative body; have been all condemned to be transported to wherever the directory should think proper. The operations of the primary, communal, and electoral assemblies in forty-nine departments, are declared null and illegal; all persons appointed to public offices in those departments are to cease in the exercise

cise their functions. The executive directory takes upon itself the authority to fill up the vacancies, as well as those which may become vacant before the election of Germinal*. Thus has the government been changed, a part of the legislative body sent into exile without any form of law, and the constitution again violated without any plea of justice.

As it is necessary that the subordinate valets should be composed of the same republican principles as their tyrannical masters, the commissaries of the executive power are therefore in general changed throughout the republic; and to our misfortune in this department, and the commune of this town, are named two of the legitimate offsprings of terror; and constitutional priests who have abdicated their profession by marrying, are named as clerks and secretaries,

* Part of the months of March and April.

in the department and municipalities. Jacobinism, that lean shadow of the terrorist, again raises its hideous aspect. The face of things already appear to wear a very different appearance. How fertile in revolutions has this unhappy country been for these last seven years!

Those fluctuating minds who had not resolution openly to avow their sentiments, nor courage to sustain the evils which might await the party they had espoused, who had been jacobins through fear under the reign of Robespierre, declared royalists from the same motives during those days of hope, before the eighteenth of Fructidor, now shrunk again with terror, and have basely forsaken those colours under which they hoped to have screened themselves from the impetuous shocks which they feared might follow a change of government; whilst those who had acted more openly, and who had in some measure avowed

avowed their principles, find no other shelter against the storm impending over their heads, than forsaking their homes and plunging once more their unhappy country into all the horrors of another civil war. La Vendee is again rising from its ashes; or rather those embers which had for some time lain dormant without ever being entirely extinguished, begin to blaze, though not with all its former violence. Is then this desolated land again to be embrued with human blood?

When will humanity cease to be shocked with a view of those horrors of which Brittany has in particular been the sad theatre! Its once fertile soil now presents nothing to the weary eye but a dreary waste: its castles now lie level with the ground; its villages consumed by the devouring flames; whole forests reduced to ashes for fear they should serve as a retreat to the Vendean, whilst its pastures, where the harmless countrymen

trymen were wont to tend their numerous herds, now barren and desolate, offer nothing but the deadly image of ruin and devastation. On the same spot where the shepherd's pipe used merrily to resound from the neighbouring echoes, are now heard the piercing shrieks of the hapless mother whom the dreadful scourge of war has untimely bereaved of her children.

Those unfortunate emigrants who, reposing upon the lenity of the late government, had come home vainly hoping by their presence to get again possession of their property, are now again the victims to be offered up to directorial cruelty and avarice: and although they are not, as in the year 1793, sacrificed upon the scaffold, yet are they ordered to quit the republic in fifteen days. And as the directory wishes to extend farther their rapacious robberies, a new list of emigrants is made out, and many persons inserted therein who had never emigrated.

grated ; amongst other names of that sort upon the new list is that of a person at Caen, who had been dead some time before the revolution, and yet, notwithstanding his heirs have clearly constituted the fact, his name is maintained upon the fatal list, and the property put in sequestration.

The vast possessions of the Duke could not long escape attracting the notice of the all-devouring rapacity of the directors, and as they could lay no other apparent lawful claim to them than emigration, they have not hesitated to have his name inserted in the list, although it is notorious, even to themselves, that from his ill state of health he has never quitted the territory of the republic. The sequestration of his Grace's property was immediately followed by the appointment of a national agent to manage the estate, and consequently I am a second time dismissed my situation. Worn out with disappointments, and fearful of
again

again becoming the hopeless victim of a boundless tyranny, I have determined upon setting off for Paris, to try if, by personal application, I can obtain those passports for England which I have been so long soliciting in vain by letter. After much difficulty, I have obtained of the municipality of this town the subjoined passport for that city.

No. 365.
Registre
des passports.

No. 1401 de
la population.

} *Liberté.—Egalité.—République.*
} *Française.—Departement de la*
} *Manche.—Canton de Torigny.*
} *—Commune de Torigny.*

Laissez passer le citoyen George Greene, Anglois, et domicilié en la commune de Torigny, departement de la Manche, depuis dix ans; agé de cinquante ans, et pretez lui aide et assistance en cas de besoin pour aller à Paris.

Delivré à l'administration municipal du

M

canton

canton de Torigny, vingtneuf Ventose, an
fix de la république Française, une et indi-
visibile.

*Le Tellier, Agent,
Gaillard, President,
Le Boutelliere, Secretaire.*

Vu par le commissaire du
directoire exécutif, *Regnaud.*

*Vu au bureau central du canton de Paris, le dixneuf
Germinal, l'an six pour deux decades, tenu de
justifier ensuit d'affaire.*

Pour les administrateurs, AUGE.

TRANSLATION.

No. 365. Register of passports.	}	<i>Liberty.—Equality.—French</i>
No. 1401 of the population.		<i>Republic.—Department of the</i>
	}	<i>Channel.—Canton of Torigny.</i>
		<i>Commune of Torigny.</i>

Permit to pass citizen George Greene, an
Englishman, an inhabitant for these ten
years last past of this commune of Torigny,
in the department of the Channel; aged
fifty years: and render him help and assist-
ance

ance if necessary: this is granted him to go to Paris.

Delivered at the municipal administration of Torigny, 29th of Ventose *, sixth year of the French republic, one and indivisible.

*Le Tellier, Agent,
Gaillard, President,
Le Boutellier, Secretary,*

Visited by the commissary of the directory, *Regnaud.*

Viewed at Paris, by the central office at Paris, the 19th Germinal, sixth year for two decades, and the bearer to justify again his business.

For the administrators, AUGE.

If I am so happy as to succeed, I shall soon have the pleasure of receiving your congratulations in person. My heart beats anxiously for the happy moment when I may be permitted to revisit my native country: although I dare not flatter myself that fortune will be more propitious to

* Twentieth of March.

me

me than she was before I left it; yet, at least, I shall be free from many of those dangers to which I am here exposed.

Farewel! Unite with me in wishing success to

Your's, faithfully, &c.

Citadel of St. Lo, Aug. 28, 1798.

I PROGNOSTICATED but too truly, you see, my good friend, when I mentioned at the conclusion of my last letter that I was not safe from the persecutions that were beginning. I am again deprived of my liberty, though equally as innocent as before, from having trespassed against any of the laws, even in the most minute instance.

But, to proceed methodically, and to account for my being once more in confinement; instead, as I fondly deluded myself,

long

long before this to be breathing the pure air of freedom in my own happy country : some unforeseen circumstances prevented my setting off for Paris as I intended : it was not till the latter end of April that I had it in my power to take the journey. Upon my arrival, I immediately made application to a deputy of my acquaintance to solicit him to interest himself in my behalf, which he promised to do ; I, however, applied myself at the office of the minister of the police, without effect. I therefore returned again to my friend, the deputy, who said he made no doubt of succeeding after the hurry of the elections was over, which at that moment occupied the government ; and that I might go back to Normandy until the passports should arrive. I accordingly set off for Torigny ; and, having no other employment when I arrived there, I amused myself with taking little excursions in the neighbourhood, to visit my friends.

Having

Having been a few days at my son-in-law's, on my return home, on the 24th of Messidor,* in the evening, I met upon the road one of my intimate friends, who lived in the same town with me; when, to my great surprise, he informed me that he had come to meet me, and begged that I would not think of returning home, as the commissary for government, with five well-armed gendarmes, had entered my house before break of day, and that it was rumoured they had orders to take me dead or alive; that knowing his friendship for me, he hoped I should not be offended in his telling me that he was fearful I had been discovered in some secret correspondence; and, as they had got possession of my papers, he trembled for my fate; and added, he wished me to save myself by flight: knowing I was well mounted, he had come out to forewarn me, and to offer me a loan of fifty pounds. I thanked him for the kind-

* Fourteenth of July.

ness of his intentions and offers ; but told him that, conscious of my innocence, and the little danger of the criminality of my correspondence, I was determined to return to my family. Upon my return, however, I found that his suppositions, in respect to my arrestation, were but too well founded. I was taken into custody, and ordered to be conducted by an armed escort to the commissary of the department at St. Lo, who told me he had caused me to be arrested by the order of Le Carliere, the minister of the police ; that same person who in Switzerland organized theft, and methodised regularly its enormity, form, and division, and for which he was called by the five Tiberiuses of Paris to the administration of the police.

When the minister signs his *mandat d'arrêt*, on what does he rely ? upon unknown complaints, or dark informations which are never communicated ; too often upon simple reports, calumniating conjectures,

tures, sown by hatred, and gathered by envy. The victim is struck without knowing from whence the blow comes. Happy if the minister has no personal enmity.

The commissary of the department, a man well suited to execute the tyrannical orders his master had given him, after calling a secretary, made me undergo the following examination :—

*Du vingt-cinq Messidor, six
Année Republicane.*

En conséquence de l'ordre transmis à la gendarmerie d'arrêter le nommé George Greene, Anglais, domicilié à Torigny ; le dit Greene a été conduit par la gendarmerie devant nous commissaires du directoire exécutif pres le département de la Manche nous lui avons fait les questions suivantes.

D. Quel est votre nom, votre age, votre profession, et votre domicile ?

R. Mon nom est George Greene, Anglais ;

glais ; mon age, cinquante ans. J'étais ci-devant agent pour le Prince de Monaco ; Je n'ai point actuellement de profession ; mon domicile est à Torigny.

D. Combien y-a-t-il que vous n'êtes plus au compte du citoyen Grimaldi ?

R. Depuis le premier Janvier dernier.

D. Quelles sont depuis cette époque vos occupations ?

R. Je n'en ai aucunes.

D. Quels étaient vos appointements chez le citoyen Grimaldi ?

R. Ils étaient fix mille quatre cents francs par an, fix cordes de bois, la nourriture de deux vaches, d'un cheval, et de plus mon logement.

D. Le citoyen Grimaldi vous a-t-il régulièrement payé le traitement qu'il vous avait promis ?

R. Le citoyen Grimaldi m'a payé tout ce qu'il me devait, il a fini ses payments au
mois

mois de Janvier dernier époque a laquelle
a fini mon service.

D. Quels sont vos liaisons ?

R. Mes liaisons sont dans Torigny. J'y
vois indistinctivement tous les habitants.

D. Quels sont les motifs et le but des
absences fréquentes que vous faites du lieu
de votre domicile ?

R. Mes moyens d'existence étant nul
dans ce moment, je suis obligé d'aller chez
mes amis, qui veulent bien me recevoir, et
me nourrir ; a ce moyen je menage a ma
famille composée de ma femme, des trois
filles, et d'un garçon, le produit de petits
ouvrages auxquels elles s'occupent.

D. Quels sont les personnes chez lesquelles
vous allez habituellement ?

R. Je vais le plus habituellement chez
ma fille mariée au citoyen Avicé, commune
de Mesnilheury, et moins chez les citoyens
La Luzerne, Vaulaville, Courtin, Boute-
mont

mont. Jamais je ne fors sans être porteur du passeport que je vous représente, et qui m'a été delivré par l'administration municipale de Torigny, le 25 de Ventose dernier, pour aller à Paris et au Mesnilheury le vit, la mis sur le passeport par le municipalité du troisieme arrondissement du canton du Paris 19 Germinal sous le No. 19, prouve que je ne me cachais pas ; les differentes autorisations donnees au dos même de ce passport, le huit Prairial dernier et le seize de ce mois par l'administration municipale de Torigny, pourtant que je peux aller à Caen, et à Formigny, prouvent aussi que je voulù me conformer aux loix, d'ailleurs pour lever tout incertitude sur mon compte, je vous représente un certificat de l'administration municipale du canton de Torigny, en date du 30 Ventose, qui prouve que depuis environ dix ans que j'habite le canton, ma conduite n'a jamais merité de reproches.

D. Quelles sont les causes qui vous ont déterminé

déterminé à prolonger votre séjour en France?

R. Il y-a à peu pres dix ans que je suis employé dans la maison du Prince de Monaco. J'allais régulièrement tous les ans en Angleterre pour mes affaires personnelles ; mais depuis la guerre non seulement je n'ai pas repassé ; mais même je n'en ai reçu aucune nouvelles, il n'est point des moyens que je n'aye employé depuis cinq ans pour me procurer un passage legal dans ma patrie : j'ai demandé des passeports au district, au département, au ministre de la police auquel j'ai écrit, le dernier voyage que j'ai fait à Paris étoit pour obtenir autorisation de repasser en Angleterre ; un représentant auquel j'en parlai, me promit de les obtenir.

D. Representez lui un paquet scellé de trois cachets et lui demandez s'il le reconnoit pour être celui dans lequel le commissaire de Torigny a renfermé les papiers trouves chez lui?

R. A

R. A répondu oui ; je reconnois que ce paquet a été cacheté en ma presence dans l'Hotel de ville.

Ouverture faite, il ne s'y est rien trouvé qui paroisse contraire aux intérêts du gouvernement.

Lecture faite du present interrogatoire il a été clos et arrêté par nous en presence de George Greene, qui interpellé de le signer, a déclaré qu'il y consentait.

(Signé)

GEORGE GREENE.

TRANSLATION.

*The 25th of Messidor, 6th Year
of the Republic. **

In consequence of an order transmitted to the gendarmery to take George Greene, an Englishman, dwelling at Torigny ; the said George Greene was conducted by the gendarmery before us, the commissary of the executive directory, at the

* Fifteenth of July,

depart-

department of the Channel, and we have put to him the following questions:

Q. What is your name, your age, your professions, and your abode?

A. My name is George Greene, an Englishman; my age fifty years; I was, some time ago, agent for the Prince of Monaco; at present I have no employ; and my abode is Torigny.

Q. How long is it since you was in the pay of citizen Grimaldy?

A. Since the first of January last past.

Q. What have been your occupations since that time?

A. I have none at all.

Q. What were your appointments from citizen Grimaldy?

A. There were near three hundred pounds a year, six stacks of wood, the keep of two cows, a horse, and likewise my lodging.

Q. Has citizen Grimaldy regularly paid you the appointments he promised you?

A. Citizen

A. Citizen Grimaldy has paid me all that he owed me to the first of January last past, the time at which my services ended.

Q. What are your connections?

A. My connections are at Torigny, where I visit, without distinction, all the citizens.

Q. What are the motives and intentions of your absenting yourself so often from home?

A. The means of my existence being at present very small, I am obliged to visit those friends who are kind enough to receive and feed me; by these means I leave to my family, composed of my wife, three girls, and a boy, the produce of fancy-works, to which they are now obliged to have recourse as a mode of subsistence.

Q. Who are the persons you generally visited?

A. I went most frequently to my daughter, married to Mr. Avise, who lived in the
parish

parish of Mesnilheury, and now and then to citizens La Luzerne, Vauleville, Courtin, and Boutemont ; but I never went without being furnished with a passport, which I now produce ; it was given me by the municipality of Torigny, the 16th of March last, to go to Paris, and to Mesnilheury. The view put upon this passport by the third section of the canton of Paris the 9th of April under the number 19, proves that I did not seek to conceal myself ; the different authorities endorsed upon the back of the said passport, the 28th of May last, and the 6th of July by the administration of Torigny, shew I had their leave to go to Caen, and Formigny ; they prove also that I was always willing to conform to the laws. Besides this, to obviate every objection upon my conduct, I here present you a certificate of the municipal administration of the canton of Torigny, dated the 21st of March ; which proves, that since the ten years I have

have inhabited Torigny, my conduct has always been free from reproach.

What are the reasons, which engaged you to prolong your abode in France?

It is near ten years since I have been employed in the family of the Prince of Monaco. I used to go at first every year to England for my own business; but, since the war, I have been prevented making that voyage, neither have I received any letters from that country. There are no means which I have not taken, for these last five years, to procure myself a lawful passage to my native country. I have asked for passports of the district, of the department, and of the minister of the police, to whom likewise I have written. The last journey that I took to Paris, was to obtain leave to return to England: a representative to whom I addressed myself, promised to get it for me.

We presented a packet to him, sealed
N with

with three seals, and asked him if he acknowledged that to be the same in which the commissary of Torigny had enclosed the papers found at his house.

Answered, yes; he acknowledges that packet was sealed in his presence in the town-hall.

The packet being opened, there was nothing found therein contrary to the interests of the government.

A recapitulation being made of the examination, it was finished and closed in the presence of George Greene; who, being called upon, has declared that he has consented.

(Signed) GEORGE GREENE.

My interrogatory finished, and my papers examined, the commissary told me that he was sorry to say that, although neither in the one or in the other he had found any thing to criminate me, yet he should be obliged

obliged to commit me until the pleasure of the minister of the police should be known, as it was by his order that I had been arrested. At this I could not help losing my temper, and observed to him it was very unfortunate for me to find myself under a government so shamefully despotic, that it would not suffer me to quit a country of which I was not a subject, and which had thrice arrested me because I was suspected by it; that it was exceedingly painful, after living in my own native land forty years without blemish, to find I should be committed to a common prison in this country, where there was no other class of men but murderers and thieves. I quoted to him the ninth article of the Rights of Man, which says, every man being presumed innocent, until he has been convicted, whenever his detention becomes indispensable, all rigour towards him, more than is necessary to secure his person, ought to be provided against
 30 by

by the law. He answered me that at the present moment all law was suspended. I was therefore committed to the town prison. Here, then, was I, for the second time since the institution of the republic, deprived of my liberty ; but I must own, this last time, the prospect at first was more alarming on account of the progress of the tyranny of the directory, and the increased hatred to every one who bore the title of Englishman. Those demagogues have already committed, during the short time of their usurpation, more crimes than despotism would have achieved for ages. After passing twenty-four hours in the most cruel situation, placed in a dungeon of eighteen feet square ; there, laid upon straw, and fed on bread and water, I could not help lamenting my existence : the greatest crime could not merit a more severe or a more cruel punishment ; and, above all, executed in so arbitrary and clandestine a manner. There were six or seven
of

of us in the same room, where I was almost suffocated for want of air. In the morning, even the savage breast of the jailer discovered a degree of sensibility, and he invited me down into his kitchen. I was here soon interrupted by the commissary, who was come, he said, in consequence of a promise he had made my daughters, who had followed me to St. Lo, to give orders for my removal to the citadel; and that, until he could send my papers to the minister, he would procure me the liberty of seeing my friends. This was a most joyful piece of intelligence to one in my situation, as many of my former companions of captivity resided in this town. I was immediately transferred from the common prison to this place, which is not much better than the prison, only that I am not along with the felons, and enjoy a more wholesome air.

As soon as my friends had permission to
see

see me, they flew to visit me, and, if possible, to soften my misfortunes. Their presence for awhile enlivened my gloomy abode ; but this consolation was but a momentary charm, which was soon to leave nothing but regret behind. This seeming indulgence was merely, in reality, a snare to find out my connections ; for such is the refined cruelty of these blood-hounds, that they are continually laying traps for the unsuspecting thoughtless victim. An order was therefore transmitted, that I must no longer expect to enjoy the liberty of communicating with my friends ; that the commissary and the municipality could no longer shut their eyes on the frequent assemblies that were held in my prison ; which had become, said one of the members with a smile of irony, a second court of Blankenburgh.

I know not, in the first moment, whether rage at such perfidy, or sorrow on the
loss

loss of those enjoyments, was most predominant in my mind. I was obliged to call in patience to my aid; and certainly never was there a more necessary virtue than this to the unfortunate victims of the revolution.

My family has quitted Torigny that they may be nearer to me; and, by dint of entreaty and supplication, have obtained, in their favour, a mitigation of the order which closed the door of my prison to the entrance of my friends. I do not blush to own the debt of gratitude I have incurred: deprived as I was of the means of providing for myself or of assisting my family, on whom this new blow severely fell, it is to the generosity of those friends alone we owe the continuance of our existence. Talk not of thanking us, they often say to my family; we are obliging ourselves in softening your misfortunes: is it not for us to alleviate as much as we can the injuries the
republic

republic has done you? and to do all that is in our power to repay, in some measure, the unbounded benevolence of your countrymen towards our unhappy exiles? and may you, when you return to England, carry with you the pleasing idea that all the French people are not cruel and inhuman.

I have at present only one unfortunate companion; a poor priest, who is condemned to six months confinement, and a fine of three hundred livres, for having baptized a child.

This town is the chief residence of the members of the department, so that I am immediately under the eyes of my Argusses, who watch me very narrowly, still thinking I am an agent of their enemies; but if innocence has nothing to fear, I may defy their utmost malice.

Adieu.

I AM

Citadel, St. Lo; May 3d, 1799.

I AM now more closely confined than ever, being ordered, with two non-juring priests, just arrested, to ascend to a room seventy two feet high from the fosses of the tower. The place of our confinement is an octagonal chamber, about twenty-five feet in diameter, and only six feet in height; enlightened by three narrow embrasures in a wall at least five feet thick; guarded with double rows of massy iron bars; no other moveable within but some trusses of straw, and a long wooden form; fire-place we have none; and the walls, which once were white, are now besmeared with a thousand fantastical figures, the pourtraying of which has served, perhaps, to chase the tedious hours of some solitary captives, like ourselves, confined in this dreary abode.

My family still enjoy the permission of
passing

passing part of the day with me in this recess of horror ; and I have leave to walk two hours every afternoon in the small garden of this citadel.

Day after day, month after month, thus passes on. The hopes that I was first given to entertain that my captivity would cease as soon as the minister was heard from, began in a small time to vanish. In vain have I sent petition after petition ; in vain have my family solicited the commissary to render me justice if he thought me innocent, or to punish me if he could prove me guilty ; or, at least, send us out of the country if we were suspected. All they have been able to obtain is the following letter from the department to the minister, and to which he has not condescended to give any answer.

LIBERTE.

LIBERTÉ.—ÉGALITÉ. No. 2184.

*St. Lo, le 5 Ventose, 7 l'Année de la Republique
Française.*

Les Administrateurs du département de la Manche,
au Ministre de la Police générale.

CITOYEN MINISTRE,

UN Anglais, nommé George Greene,
attaché au service du ci-devant Prince de
Monaco à Torigny, est detenu depuis sept
mois en la maison d'arret de St. Lo, par
votre ordre.

Nous n'avons acquit aucun faite contre
la conduite politique de cet individu, nous
pensons qu'il conviendrait de le renvoyer
lui, et sa famille en Angleterre; d'autant
plus que l'on ne peut guere esperer qu'ils de-
viennent jamais partisans du gouvernement
Français.

Nous vous invitons en consequence ci-
toyen ministre, a nous autoriser à faire em-
barquer

barquer la famille Greene, sur un bâtiment neutre faisant voile pour l'Angleterre.

Salut et respect,

PITON, President.

TRANSLATION.

LIBERTY.—EQUALITY. No. 2184.

St. Lo, Feb. 24th, 1799, seventh Year of the Republic.

The Administrators of the Department of the Channel, to the Minister of the general Police.

CITIZEN MINISTER,

AN Englishman, named George Greene, belonging to the service of the late Prince of Monaco, at Torigny, has been confined these seven months in the prison of St Lo, by your order.

We have not found any thing against the political conduct of this individual; we think it will be proper to send him and his family to England; and much more so, as we cannot hope that they will ever become
partizans

partizans of the present French government.

We invite you, therefore, citizen minister, to authorise us to embark his family in a neutral vessel sailing for England.

Salute and respect,

PITON, President.

I own, although I derived no benefit from this letter, it gave me an inward satisfaction to think my conduct had fully convinced those republicans of my principles. And surely if vanity ever was laudable, that of making a detestation of revolutionary principles, and an attachment to loyalty and religion may justly be considered so.

I now entertain little hopes of seeing an end to my captivity; a captivity which now, indeed, begins to be severely felt, the cold being intense; and although our wretched apartment affords us a shelter from
the

the rain and snow, yet we are not screened from the bleak and piercing winds. And I have, to increase my sufferings, the extreme mortification of seeing my family for hours, at this rigorous season, waiting at my prison gates before they can gain admittance.

Military commissions appointed after the revolution of the eighteenth of Fructidor, in the different departments are now employed in arresting, condemning, and executing priests, emigrants, and other persons suspected of the crime of royalism. Those who are unattained by the law, do not escape the fangs of despotism ; and the struggle is frequently great between the homicide projects of the director, Merlin, and the judicial, legislative, and even military powers. A gentleman, who was arrested at Cherbourg upon suspicion of returning from émigration, after having been tried at Caen and acquitted, was again sent before
a mili-

a military commission, by order of Merlin, and tried, convicted, and shot as a person recruiting for foreign powers.

From the directory down to the executive commissary, all display a profligate contempt of the laws, as well as of rigid justice; and in all their relations they are governed by a spirit of infernal vengeance and abominable rapacity.

A gentleman of Granville, in this neighbourhood, has had a most wonderful escape from falling a victim to directorial tyranny. He was arrested on a supposition of having sent a draught of the port of Granville, together with some letters, to the governor of Jersey; and although there was no other proof but a similitude of hand-writing, yet he was judged by the criminal tribunal of the department, and condemned to be guillotined. Having appealed to the tribunal of cassation at Paris, that court confirmed the sentence, which remained only to be executed.

executed. On the eve of the fatal day, about nine at night, two persons, dressed in the uniform of gendarmes, came with a third person, apparently a prisoner, to the prison of Coutance, where the condemned person was confined. As soon as they had gained admittance, and untied the pretended prisoner, they clapped pistols to the breast of the jailer, and ordered him to produce Mr. de la Touche, the person condemned. The jailer, after making some hesitation, and after that they had shot his dog, at last conducted them to the cell where they found the unhappy victim loaded with chains by which he was fastened to the floor. They loosed him from the latter, and bore him off upon one of their backs ; but, unfortunately for one of these generous deliverers, as they came out of the prison, a person from a window opposite, seeing him come out of it, with a man upon his back, fired and killed the unhappy bearer. The
other

other took up Le Touche, in the same manner ; and some of their comrades coming up, after shooting the person who had fired, they carried off their charge in triumph, notwithstanding there was a strong military force of national guards in the town ; for, although these Chouan rescuers were few, they had taken their measures so judiciously as to prevent the troops assembling ; and, having horses waiting, they soon escaped pursuit.

The aged and infirm non-juring priests, who had been exempted from deportation, by the decrees of 1792, are now the objects of directorial vengeance ; and the departmental and communal commissaries being very vigilant in putting this tyranny into execution, such great numbers are brought to the prison of this town, that it is impossible to find room for them ; and many, in consequence, have been sent to keep us company in the citadel ; so that, by this in-

o

crease

crease of inhabitants, we are as much affected by the heat, as we have been in winter by the cold. Amongst these unhappy ecclesiastics, is a venerable old man, eighty-six years of age, such a martyr to the gout, that he was brought into the apartment upon men's shoulders, and is absolutely so incapable of assisting himself, that we have to add to our misfortunes that of being obliged to take upon us the pains of attending this unfortunate person.

The savage cruelty of these commissaries is so great, that they visit, with armed patrols, the town prison, three times every night; and, to torment the prisoners as much as possible, they enter every chamber on pretence of counting its inhabitants; who are obliged, from the manner they are crowded, to get up from their beds of straw, to make room for these monsters to come in.

The distinguishing doctrines of Christianity,

tianity, namely, humanity and charity, seem to be generally exploded, and considered rather as a weakness than magnanimity. Revenge, on the contrary, is applauded as a virtue, and proclaimed as a duty; and the people are stimulated to cruelty on every real or supposed injury.

Adieu.



Citadel, St. Lo, Aug. 14th, 1799.

THE old commissary who committed me, has been replaced by a new one; the former being named to the legislative body. I soon found, bad as was my situation, it might still be worse. The first commissary, at least covered his perfidy by an apparent mark of politeness and good will towards my family; but the present one, does not even attempt to hide the
hatred

hatred which he feels for our nation ; and, glad of an opportunity of shewing his malignant vengeance towards a member of that country he abhors, has cruelly denied me the only consolation I had till this instant been permitted to enjoy ; the cheering ray which the society of my family had hitherto spread over my bosom, now is vanished ! they have been inhumanly forbidden to alleviate my sorrows by their presence !

This piece of barbarity I felt more severely than my imprisonment ; but the accents of woe, which the bitterness of my grief sometimes draws from me, reach not the ears of my cruel oppressors ; or, if they do, I find them deaf to the voice of pity and humanity ; pity and humanity, indeed, are again considered crimes ; and I myself have lately become a victim in giving way to their impulses ; for, moved with indignation and horror at the savage conduct of
some

some gendarmes, who were dragging the aged ecclesiastic, above-mentioned, from this place, to conduct him to Mount St. Michael, I ventured to plead in the defence of humanity, and reproached them for the barbarity with which they put their orders into execution : and finding them still continue to overwhelm him with indignities, while listening to the voice of compassion, I forgot the suggestions of prudence, and turned them out of the room ; but I had soon reason to repent of my rashness, if a good action could ever give birth to that sentiment ; for, a few hours after, I was conducted to the common prison, and ordered to be put into a dungeon. This news soon reached the ears of my family : shocked and confounded by intelligence so unexpected, yet eager to mitigate my sufferings, they flew immediatly to the prison to try by their entreaties to see me ; but after encountering innumerable difficulties in the attempt,

attempt, they had afterwards the mortification to find themselves sternly refused the poor gratification of administering even that melancholy piece of duty, by the unfeeling barbarian of a commissary, to whom they applied for the permission to enter my dungeon. All they could learn on the subject were repeated confirmations of the inhuman treatment I received, and that my change of confinement was effected in consequence of an act of rebellion. Fortunately for me, I remained but a few days in my dungeon ; for the jailer, who was present during my contest with the gendarmes, bore witness to the faithless exaggerated report of my accusers ; and, in consequence of his intercession, I was remanded to my former abode, the citadel.

Every thing now, indeed, seems to announce a new system of terror ; and the directory appear to revenge themselves by the violence of their measures, for the defeat

feat their armies met with at the beginning of this campaign ; and they have began this system by the introduction of the law of hostages, in order to make the levies of men and money more effectual. Three requisitions of men were called out almost immediately. Domestic felicity is once more cruelly disturbed ; and the parents now weep again the loss of their surviving children.

La Vendee now begins to blaze out again with fresh force, formed by the bands of those new conscripts, who desert by hundreds from the republican colours ; so that we find ourselves placed in the midst of those horrors of civil war which, till now, had only been viewed by us at a distance. For a long time, various projects have been framed by the directory, and have been presented to the legislative body, for the suppression of these disorders, under the title of a law for the responsibility of the re-
spective

spective communes. But these projects have been hitherto deemed insufficient; for, while the remedy was preparing, the evil had risen, particularly in this and the western departments, to an alarming height. As the disease increases every day, the council of five hundred have determined to oppose to it a still more violent remedy; and the tyrannical law, known by the name of the Law of Hostages, has been passed. By this law it is decreed, amongst other articles, that when a department or commune is evidently in a state of civil disorder, the relations of emigrants and the ci-devant nobles comprehended in the revolutionary law of the third of Brumaire,* in the third year, their grandfathers, fathers, mothers, and individuals who, without being any relations, or even ex-nobles, are reputed to form part of the assembly, or band of Chouans,

* Twenty-fifth of October.

should

should be personally and civilly responsible for whatever assassinations or robberies are committed in their communes. That the administrators of departments should take hostages amongst those classes whenever disorders should arise ; and should be authorised to commit them even before any declaration of such department or commune, being in a state of disorder, should be made. These hostages are to surrender themselves in such places as should be pointed out : a delay of ten days, is to incur constraint by force ; and flight, the punishment of emigration. In case a murder is committed on any public functionary, defender of the country, or purchaser of national domains, or any person of this description carried off, four of these hostages are to be banished for every person murdered or carried off ; besides paying a fine of six thousand livres. Every hostage is to be responsible

responsible for the payment of four thousand livres in case of any murder in his commune; this fine to be paid into the public treasury. He is likewise to pay six thousand, to the widow, and three thousand to the children of the person assassinated. This responsibility is to be extended also to whatever damages or waste is committed against property. This despotic law is to receive its due execution until the general peace. In consequence, the Prince's castle is again converted into a *maison d'arrêt*, and is now filling very fast with the unhappy victims who fall under the above description.

This distracted country is at present suffering, under the directory, more intolerable oppression than they ever did under the most despotic of their monarchs; and are at the same time exposed to the attacks of external enemies, whose number is daily increasing by the imprudent conduct of their new governors.

An

An engagement which took place a few weeks ago, within three miles of this town, between the royalists and the republican troops, in which the latter were victorious, disconcerted the projects which the former had formed of attacking the departmental town, and relieved St. Lo from the consternation into which it had been plunged upon the approach of the army; an approach which had liked to have proved fatal to us prisoners; for again the question was agitated, if it would not be prudent to sacrifice us if the enemy should attempt to attack the town; but had an attack taken place, fear, no doubt, would have made them desist from the execution of so dangerous a project.

I hope the troubles and dangers to which the French revolution has exposed me, will make you set a just value on the inestimable blessing you enjoy; living under
a go-

a government which needs no dangerous revolutions to consolidate the happiness of its subjects.

Adieu.

Citadel, St. Lo. Dec. 2, 1799.

THE change of fortune, from the astonishing success which has lately attended the republican armies, has been a fatal blow to the hopes of the royalists. The republic now rises triumphant out of the disgraces which it for some time experienced ; and the surprising return of Buonaparte has been a subject of amazement to all parties ; but it has been a most fortunate event, as it has delivered us from the oppressive sway of the directory, which has been intolerable. Several changes have taken place in that body, during

during the summer, which fully evince how divided they were even in their measures of oppression.

In the month of May, Reubel quitted the directory, and was replaced by Abbé Sieyes, who became a member with Barras, Merlin, Revellier Le Paux, and Treilhard ; but the latter was soon forced to resign, from its being discovered that he was not eligible by the thirteenth article of the constitution ; and he was replaced by Gohier, who had been formerly minister of justice. By the revolution of the 19th of June, Merlin and Revelliere Le Paux were forced to resign. The vacancies were filled up by the councils by Roger Duelos, ex-legislator, and Moulins, a general of terrorift creation. At the same time, Duval, who had previously replaced Le Carliere, as minister of the police, having fig-nalized himself as a creature of Merlin, and feveral acts of an arbitrary nature being
cited

cited against his administration, he was forced to resign, and was replaced by Fouche de Nantes, whose political career had been deeply stained with revolutionary crimes.

Though these changes were not much for the better, in one respect, yet the public had at last discovered that it was impossible they could have employed worse administrators than their predecessors, whose incapacity was so closely allied to corruption. The weighty considerations of policy and prudence saved these culprits from their merited punishment, but nothing can screen them from that general detestation to which they have such great and undeniable claims.

I cannot forbear translating here what a deputy said of them in the councils, after repeating many of their arbitrary and rapacious transactions, and of the appointments they received, he observed :

“ A hundred thousand crowns a year
may

may embellish the existence of republican vice-roys, who pile bankruptcy on bankruptcy, who dissipate millions where others spend crowns ; who, absolute disposers of the lives and properties of the citizens, nourish their treasure by cutting off heads, and confiscating fortunes ; who sell peace or war for money ; who trade in every thing, from the making of laws to the breaking of them ; from public engagements, to public decisions ; and who, at the point of the sword, or by the knife of the executioner, have rendered thirty millions of men tributary to their avarice."

Boulay de la Meurthe, another representative, speaking of them, says, " Under the directors, personal security was violated every instant ; property, uncertain ; private transactions, commerce, and the useful arts, in a state of alarming stagnation ; confidence annihilated ; the people tormented in

in every mode, and their misery carried to such excess, that they dared not complain; and that those who saw the causes of those evils, feared either to make them known, or point out the remedies.”

The directorial tyranny expired on the memorable ninth of November, making way to the consular government. Since then, a milder system has been adopted; and, to remedy and assuage, if possible, the evils that the late severities have caused in the western and this department, the major part of the great towns in each are put under military law; and generals, who possess the confidence of the first consul, are sent to protect the innocent, to redress their wrongs, reconcile the royalists, and overawe the terrorists: and, upon the whole, if it produce no other effect, the defeat of the terrorist party, and the overthrow of that system by which the republic has been governed

verned these ten years past, may be considered as a most fortunate event for this country.

The unhappy victims of arbitrary incarcerations were amongst the first who felt the benefits of this moderation. The innocent hostages, and the unfortunate persons in prison under secret denunciations unsupported by proofs, are now happily relieved by these measures of justice. The *maisons d'arrêt*, in this neighbourhood, were soon emptied, and the prisons begin to thin apace : our turn is not yet come, although we live in daily expectation.

St. Lo, Dec. 13th, 1799.

I MAY now rank myself among the number of those, who hail the new system as calculated to cicatrize the deep wounds that tyrannical power has caused. For by it, I once more enjoy, with the sweets of liberty, the heart-felt satisfaction of pressing my beloved family to my bosom.

The beginning of last week, early in the morning, I was very much surprized to see the jailer arrive at the citadel with the new commandant of this town and his two aide-camps, and enquire for me. After some humane observations of the keeper in my favour, who, I must own, always favoured me as far as lay in his power, I was asked by the military gentleman if I knew for what I was in prison, and if I had any papers which would constitute my political conduct. I told them that I had not the least idea for what I had been arrested; that

those

those who arrested me could not tell, and that nobody has informed me since I was committed. I then shewed them my examination and the certificates of the department and of the municipality ; when, after observing to one another that a parallel act of injustice would not have been committed at Constantinople, they assured me it should not be long before I should be restored to liberty : and if I had any person to send to the general at head-quarters at Coutance, they made no doubt of my immediately obtaining it, and to forward which the commandant gave me the following letter.

*St. Lo, le 16 Frimaire, l'An 8 de
la Republique Française.*

Le Commandant de la place de St. Lo, a l'adjutant-général L'Amarque, commandant la subdivision de la Manche.

MON GENERAL,

Vous trouverez ci inclus l'ecroue du nommé George Greene, Anglais, detenu dans la maison d'arrêt de cette commune
par

par ordre du ministre de la police, on dit beaucoup de bien de cet homme, et je vous priez de vous intéresser à lui.

Salut et Respect,

DURANT.

TRANSLATION.

St. Lo, Dec. 7, 1799.

The Commander of the Town of St. Lo, to the Adjutant-general, L'Amarque, commanding the Subdivision of the Channel.

GENERAL,

You will find enclosed, the commitment of a person named George Greene, an Englishman, detained in this town by order of the minister of the general police: he is well spoken of, and I beg of you to interest yourself in his behalf.

Salute and Respect,

DURANT.

I sent my son, next day, to the general, with the letter of the commandant, who, after

after examining my papers, observed, he was sorry he could not restore me my liberty directly, but that my name was not included in the list of prisoners given in by the commissary, and in consequence, I did not come officially under that description. But giving the young man a letter, he told him to return to the departmental office and bring him back an answer. My son delivered the letter as directed, and was answered by the commissary that the general had nothing to do in my business, as I was a foreigner committed by order of the minister of the police, it was him only that could render me my liberty : but that he, the commissary, would write an answer to the letter. On hearing this, I confess all my flattering hopes nearly vanished. But how agreeably was I surprized the very next day to hear the general was arrived at St. Lo, and that he had sent for the jailer ; which news being carried to my family, they

they hastened to present themselves to him, who, upon being informed they were waiting at the door, very politely sent his aid-de-camp to introduce them; and, before they could tell their business, he told them he was come solely upon my account, and if they had been half an hour later, they would have found me with him; that he had expedited my liberation; and that he wished, on my being restored to liberty, to see me at his quarters. Before my family could thank him, I arrived; and, as soon as he saw me, he kindly said he came on purpose to serve me; that he saw there was a marked vengeance against me, and that he thought it one of the happiest moments of his life to have restored an honest innocent man to his liberty, a fond husband to a tender wife, and an affectionate father to his beloved children. “Go, citizen,” said he, “and conduct yourself, as I find by various reports you always

always have done, as an honest man; and if I can ever be of any further service to you, command me."

I sincerely thanked him, and took my leave. I heard, the next day, he had quitted the town, without taking any notice of the departmental administrators.

Thus was I, by this worthy man, once more restored to my long lost liberty; and it pleased me the more, as it proved to me that the charm of humanity was not incompatible with the character of a republican. Nor did I feel a less pleasing emotion at the congratulations of the inhabitants of St. Lo. But the commissary of the directory fees, with mortification and chagrin, that I am at large. I know not what can have made this man my enemy, as I am a perfect stranger to him. I, however, have taken care, to prevent any inconvenience, to procure the following copy of my discharge.

Je

Du 20 Frimaire, l'An 8.

Je brigadier de la gendarmerie nationale
sous-signé ai decroué et mis en liberté le
nommé George Greene, par l'ordre de l'ad-
jutant générale, L'Amarque, le concierge
est dechargé donc par ceci.

(Signé)

RICHARD.

TRANSLATION.

December 11, 1799.

I, the undersigned brigadier of the na-
tional gendarmerie have discharged and set
at liberty the within named George Greene,
by order of the adjutant general, L'Amarque,
and the jailer is hereby discharged.

(Signed)

RICHARD.

You who know not what it is to wear
away the tedious hours in a prison, to feel
as I have done these two last winters, the
bleak north-easterly winds whistle through
the

the shattered shutters, of our iron grated windows from which we received the light; you, I say, can have no idea of the pleasure which the blazing hearth diffuses through the heart of him who has not seen the social fire side for eighteen long months, and who has been exposed during part of that time to the severest cold. I sincerely hope you never will experience the degree of pleasure I am speaking of, at the price it has cost

Your's, &c.

I NOW

St. Lo, Feb. 1, 1800.

I now call for your utmost congratulations ; as I can, at this moment, say I am free indeed ; for, perhaps, before this letter reaches you, my feet will once more tread upon the land of freedom : be assured, they will soon bear me to the arms of friendship. Oh ! how my bosom pants towards my native isle. I had almost thought that misfortune had deadened the love which nature has planted in our breasts for the country where we received our being : but, no ! twelve years absence has not, in the least, diminished the lively feelings which warm my heart. But to account for these transports, I must inform you in what manner I obtained these wished-for passports.

In a short time after my liberation a delegate from the council arrived at St. Lo, to regulate the acceptation of the new constitution.

stitution. He sent for me, and told me he had received an account from the general of the unjust tyrannical manner in which I had been treated ; and if I wished to become, as I was by long residence entitled to be, a French citizen, he would endeavour to procure me some employment, as a compensation for what I had suffered. I thanked him ; but told him, the only indemnification I requested was, that of leave to return to England. He said, if that was my wish, he made no doubt but that he could procure me the necessary passports. In consequence of this promise, I received, from the commissary of the department, the following letter and order.

No. 1.

*A George Greene, Anglais, demeurant
à St. Lo.*

JE vous transmettre ci-joint copie
d'une lettre du Ministre de police générale,
qui vous concerne, vous verrez qu'il accede
à la

à la réclamation que vous avez fait plusieurs fois d'être autorisé à repasser en Angleterre avec votre famille; vous verrez aussi qu'il me charge par la même lettre d'assurer votre départ, et de lui en rendre compte, vous voulez bien en conséquence faire vos arrangements le plutôt possible, et me désigner le port dans lequel vous desirer vous embarquer.

Salut et Fraternité.

BONNESŒUR.

TRANSLATION.

No. 1.

*To George Greene, dwelling
at St. Lo.*

I HAVE here subjoined a copy of a letter of the minister of the general police which concerns you; you will therein see that he now grants the reclamations that you have so often made, to have leave to return with your family to England; you will see, also, that he charges me,

me, by the same letter, to assure your departure, and to render him an account; you will, therefore, in consequence, make your arrangements, and inform me of the sea-port from whence you wish to depart.

Salute and Brotherhood,

BONNESŒUR.

1st Division.

5eme Bureau

No. 3569.

LIBERTÉ.—EGALITÉ.

*Paris, le 14th Nivose, l'An 8 de la
Republique, une et indivisible.*

Le Ministre de la Police Général de la République, au Commissaire du Gouvernement, pres l'Administration centrale du Departement de la Manche à St. Lo.

D'après l'examen que j'ai fait citoyen des motifs de l'arrestation du nommé George Greene, Anglais, detenu depuis Messidor l'an 6 par mesure de sûreté dans la maison d'arrêt de St. Lo, J'ai cru devoir fait droit à sa reclamation tendante à l'obtenir d'être renvoyé avec sa famille en Angleterre.

Je

Je vous charge en conséquence de profiter du premier vaisseau neutre ou du premier parlementaire pour diriger cet étranger et sa famille sur la Grande Bretagne, sa patrie.

Vous prendrez tous les mesures de précaution convenable pour assurer cet exportation, et vous me rendrez compte de l'exécution du présent ordre.

Salut et Fraternité,

FOUCHER.

TRANSLATION.

1st Division.

5th Office.

No. 3569.

LIBERTY.—EQUALITY.

No. 2.

Paris, Jan. 4, 1800. *The Republic, one and indivisible.*

The Minister of the General Police of the Republic, to the Commissary of Government, at the central Administration of the Channel at St. Lo.

After the examination I have made, citizen, of the motives of the arrest of the within named George Greene, an Englishman,

lishman, detained ever since the 14th of July, 1798, in the prison of St. Lo, I think I ought to comply with his request, desiring leave to be sent, with his family, to England.

I charge you, therefore, in consequence, to profit of the first neutral vessel, or the first cartel, to send that stranger and his family to Great Britain, his country.

You will take all the measures of precaution necessary to be assured of their exportation, and you will render me an account of the execution of the present order.

Salute and Respect,

FOUCHER.

Thus are all obstacles overcome, and my return to England, certain. Pleasing as is the idea, I cannot help feeling a sentiment of deep regret when I think that I am quitting France most likely for ever. It

is

is true, I am leaving a country in which I have experienced the most cruel persecution ; but in which, too, I have passed many days of peace and happiness : I am going to leave a dearly beloved daughter, and friends who have often soothed to me the bitter cup of woe. Those I left in England are, perhaps, no more ! Several years have now passed since I received news from any of them. My native land may be, therefore, more foreign to me than the one I am on the point of quitting ; yet pleasing hopes soon banish these reflections, when I consider that I am going to that country where experience has taught me the blessings of living under a constitution in which the peaceable inhabitant trembles not under the lash of tyranny ; and that I am about to quit a government where so many families have, for these last six years, wept in silence, the loss of their friends, their fortunes, and all those comforts which
render

render life desirable, and where time alone can heal those wounds which anarchy has made.

We shall go from hence to Cherbourg, which is about twenty-five leagues from this town, where I expect we shall be fortunate enough to meet with a cartel to convey us to England ; if not, I suppose I shall be obliged to hire a vessel at my own expence.

The republic, for my eighteen months confinement, this last time, has given me no sort of indemnity ; and my journey home is to be at my own expence. Little do they consider how much so long an imprisonment must have reduced my resources : but public wants are so great, that private ones cannot be attended to.

Your's, &c.

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AN
 ACCOUNT
 OF THE
MANNERS AND RURAL CUSTOMS
 OF THE
 INHABITANTS
 OF
 THE BOCAGE.

THE idea that the English have ever entertained of the French peasants in general, is not entirely without foundation; but in respect to the Norman ones, they have been misled to imagine their situations to proceed from misery and distress, which, on the contrary, has only been the effect of interested motives, or from the habits in which they were bred up; for there are very few of them who do not possess some
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small landed property, and there are scarce any who have not sufficient ready money to enable them to live in a far different manner from what they do. It is extremely rare, in that province, to hear of the seizure of a farmer's stock. The tail, or tax on improvements, indeed, bears hard upon them. This tax is levied on all the inhabitants, excepting the clergy, the noblesse, the officers of the king's household, the princes of the blood, the officers of the army and marine, and all who are possessed of posts and offices. This tax is imposed yearly by the king, and assessed upon each province, according to its ability of payment. The intendant lays the assessment first upon each section, then on each parish, and at length it is charged upon the inhabitant, according to his means, and the elders of each parish; in presence of the judges of the place and of the syndic. This is, indeed, a villainous tax, which will
ever

ever keep down the husbandry of France. It is said to be laid upon every one according to his ability; but that is a mere expression without a reality; for intrigue, and a million other causes corrupt its original intention. Under the notion of taxing every one according to his ability, the improvements in husbandry are severely checked, with this dreadful addition, that a little shew of wealth is ever taken that more is concealed, which would appear, was it not for fear of its being taxed in proportion. Their principles of œconomy are derived, therefore, from habitude, and a fear of being more heavily assessed. The expences at a fair or market will shew to what small sums they limit themselves. But it must be understood, that I speak of their habitudes before the revolution; for, since that period, the husbandmen and dealers are become the richest order in the new republic. A farmer, or dealer, at an inn, rarely
 expends

expends more for himself and his horse, in the course of the day, than six-pence British money. At his own table he is not much more luxurious: his breakfast consists of a hasty pudding, made with buckwheat and flour, and eat with milk instead of butter; his dinner, five days in the week, consists of three or four pounds of pickled pork boiled down to rags, to make a soup composed of that and cabbage; and the other two remaining days, Friday and Saturday, being maigre ones, he has a soup made of milk, butter, and onions; and, to compleat the feast, some hard boiled eggs, dried kidney beans, or pancakes made with buckwheat flour; and his suppers are mostly a soup made with grease, or dry bread and cyder. His habiliments are as frugal as his fare: his head is generally covered with a woollen night-cap, the materials shorn off the back of one of the sheep of his own flock, spun and knitted by the hands of one
of

of the females of his family; his coat, waistcoat, and breeches, are again borrowed from the same stock; and, except the weaving, are carded, spun, and made at home; his shirts are produced from hemp or lint, grown upon his premises, and spun and made by the same persons as his cloaths; his stockings are of the same composition as his shirts, wrapped several times round his legs, and tied in different places with tape; his feet are covered and supported from the ground, not in leather, but in wooden shoes, called *sabbots*, which are the growth of his own hedges, and cost two-pence per pair making; they are not heavier than nailed shoes; and, being lined with sheepskin, are uncommonly warm. In respect of the habiliments of the female peasants, their gowns and petticoats are of a coarse woollen manufacture of their own spinning and dyeing; but in regard to linen, they may, perhaps, vie with any other

other set of people, of the same class, in Europe. It is wonderful to find such a profusion of webs of sheeting, napkins, and linen for shirts and shifts as they have hoarded by them; their stocks are by dozens, as a mother of a family puts by every year a certain quantity of home manufactured cloth to fortune out her daughters, their marriage-dower consisting mostly in that article, and is considered so great an object as to be inserted in detail in all their marriage contracts. Their manner of washing is much more economical than our's, using not half the quantity of soap, and rendering their linen much whiter, and void of that smell which the soaping it so much generally occasions. They first wash all their linen in cold water, at some running brook, and then pass it several times through a strong boiling lie of wood ashes.

The farmers in the woodlands, as if in conformity

conformity to the soil, which has undergone very little melioration, seem still to retain a strong cast of the manners of their forefathers, and to live and toil under the same uncomfortable circumstances: their houses are dark, smoaky, and diminutive, without a single pane of glass in their windows; their fare, simple and limited; their labours hard, and even oppressive. Religion, which has in other parts relaxed a little in its exterior form, is still retained by them in all the austerity of former times. They are, in general, very ignorant; have a great propensity for drinking; and are exceedingly prejudiced in favour of the customs of their forefathers; but they have a deal of low cunning, and possess, to an eminent degree, a number of mean arts to over-reach the buyer or seller of any article they have to deal in; and, so renowned are they over the whole kingdom, that the

title

title of a Norman is not the best recommendation.

Little need be said of the day labourer, when you are informed his pay is only seven-pence halfpenny per day, for the maintenance of himself and family: humanity will suffer by a detail of their manner of living.

Amongst the noblesse, the gentry, and rich citizens, however, you will find the agreeable French cheerfulness mixed with every quality that can render the company of them pleasing. They are all well instructed; are affable in their manners; polite in their behaviour; amusing in their conversation; and, in respect to their religious tenets, they have that spirit of toleration which is so distinctive a mark of greatness of soul. Their mode of dressing is altogether after the English fashion, being passionately fond of all English manufactures;

tures : and the tables, even those of small fortune, may be set in competition with those of our own country, when only dining in a family manner, seldom sitting down to less than six dishes, without including four pieces of desert, with a bottle of most excellent Burgundy or other wine ; after dinner a glass of *liqueur*, or best coniac brandy. This is not to be wondered at for several reasons ; first the cheapness of provisions, bread costing seldom more than one penny per pound ; butcher's meat, three-pence ; butter, five-pence ; eggs, two-pence per dozen ; four or five different sorts of fish for two or three shillings ; a hare, one shilling ; a brace of partridges, six-pence ; and other game and poultry in proportion. Besides, by clauses in their leases, the farmers, exclusive of rent, are to furnish a certain quantity of poultry, butter, and several loaves of sugar annually to their landlords ; add, also, that they rarely serve up whole joints

joints of meat, as in England, but make two or three separate dishes, by different sauces, of the same meat, and forming most delicious *ragouts* of the several vegetables of their gardens; and the towns furnish a most plentiful supply by means of the markets. At Torigny, the market is held every Monday for corn, cattle, poultry, butter, eggs, game, butcher's meat, hemp, and flax; and every Friday, for sea and fresh-water fish. There are also three well-frequented fairs held every year; and in consequence, the town is inhabited by a number of genteel families of small fortune, who form a most agreeable society; and their evenings are generally concluded with assemblies of dancing and card playing.

Travelling on horseback is likewise very reasonable in this province, as, at the inns, in all great towns, is found an ordinary, both for dinner and supper, where you are served with eight or ten dishes at fifteen-

pence

pence per head, cyder included ; and, if you choofe a bottle of wine, you may have very good fmall wine for ten-pence, and extraordinary good for eighteen-pence ; and the horfe's nouriture is cheaper than that of his rider.



LEASES AND STOCK.

THEY have three manners of letting their lands ; the one is by fief, of which they have three modes ; the firft, is taking a fine, for a perpetual leafe of the land, at the current value at the time of leafing ; the fecond manner, is without any fine at all, but at a rent confiderably above the common value ; and the other is at a rent increafing or diminifhing, according to the annual average price of corn in the neighbouring

bouring markets. In these three different modes, the owner is exempt from all repairs, and the generality of *corvees* and other rights are expressed in the lease, with a right for the original possessor to enter into possession in case of non-payment. The second method is, as in England, by lease at a certain annual rent, ordinarily in this neighbourhood, from ten to twelve shillings an acre, subject to all government taxes, tythes, and other impositions. The covenants are much like those in this country, except the additional one of poultry, day labour, &c, before-mentioned. But these leases are seldom for more than seven or nine years, which certainly is a great discouragement to agriculture, and a great hurt to the interests of lessor and lessee; the proprietor would certainly find his advantage in a longer term, because his estate would be better manured, and better cultivated, and the farmer would gain also, because

cause his industry would have a larger scope. Being assured of a length of time, he would enlarge his undertakings without the fear that another would reap the benefit of his labour and expence. The third manner of letting is what they call by moiety, where the proprietor furnishes all the cattle, sheep, and other live and dead stock, on condition that the tenant, after paying a very small rent, should nourish the beasts, and render an account and divide the profit with his landlord. The cattle are estimated beforehand, and the occupier is obliged to return the same quantity and quality at the end of his lease. The farmer is allowed from four to five bushels of barley, oats, and buck-wheat per acre, for harvesting them; and from two to four bushels of wheat. For threshing, he is allowed one bushel in eleven; the rest is divided, and the tenant carries the owner's home free of expence. The stock of all kinds being
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the landlord's, the tenant is bound to keep it up in its full value, which, in case of bad accidents, being totally unable to do, he is at once ruined, and the loss falls ultimately on the landlord, and the division of the profits being halved, effectually destroys all improvements.

In the miserable management common amongst them, it may be found tolerably just; but in case of the tenant working any improvement, it would be impossible for him to allow half to the owner. It must be remembered that an improvement upon a former cultivation is generally an increase more of labour or dunging than any other article. Thus would all the addition be at the expence of the farmer, who, in return, would reap but half the additional produce. No man breathing, in such circumstances, would think of any improvement, however obvious: his case is, indeed, peculiarly hard. Improvements from the crops by in-

crease

crease of labour and manure, we see are totally out of the question; if the poor fellow attempts it in cattle, he must leave as much on the farm as he found; and if he carries the quantity beyond that, the tax multiplies so heavily upon him that his profits are very inconsiderable. This species of leasing, therefore, is far from being beneficial; for the general supposition is, that in corn, these farms produce only four times the seed. Wherever it is in practice, you see none but peasants whose poverty is shocking, and only a hair's breadth perpetually between them and ruin.

The farmers' houses are very poor hovels; the floors made with earth, and without any glass in the windows. But the out-buildings are numerous, as they stack neither corn or hay out of doors; and in winter, their animals of all descriptions are housed every night; and, indeed, (except the sheep,) every day. The reparations

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of these buildings are not, however, very heavy, as they are built of common quarry unwrought stones, and cemented with clay and chopped hay mixed together, instead of mortar. Their barns have no other flooring than clay well beat together.

The taxes, except the tail before-mentioned, that are paid in this province, are not very heavy, as there are neither poor's rates or highway duties; for if unfortunately a person becomes, through sickness, incapable of maintaining his family, the relations of every degree are obliged to contribute their quota for maintenance in proportion to their consanguinity and abilities. In every parish there are glebe lands, left by pious persons to assist the minister in relieving his own parochial poor.

The great roads are repaired at the expence of the crown, without the aid of turnpikes or statute duty; and the bye roads are seldom repaired at all.

The

The tythes, indeed, were paid in kind; excepting the right of taking small tythes, which was never strictly put in execution. The first lure the revolution held out to gain the country people, was the abolition of all tything; but when they had them to pay, they had no reason to complain, as they have little but them, the tail, and their rent, as outgoings; their blacksmiths', collar-makers', and wheelwrights' bills not coming very high; indeed, the two last are not worth mentioning, as the estates furnish all plough and cart timber, with a sufficiency also for fuel; and having few horses, they want but little harness.

The manner of stocking in their common leases, does not, likewise, take up much of their money, except the purchase of the first cattle to breed their stock from, as they raise all their young cattle necessary to compleat it. There are scarce any farms
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in this neighbourhood, larger than one hundred acres, and very few of that size. To mount their stock of cattle, they buy two mares, four cows, six bullocks, about thirty ewes, and a breeding sow, with about a dozen poultry; and from these they raise a sufficient quantity of each sort to enable them to sell, after the third year, one year's stock under another. Their dead stock consists of three cart bodies, each of a different kind, which as they have occasion to use only one at a time, are successively mounted upon the same iron axel-tree and the same pair of wheels: the one serves as a mud-cart; the other, instead of a waggon, (as it is equally as large) to fetch home their lime, and to carry out their dung and manure; and the last, which has fore and hind ladder, to bring home their hay and corn: two ploughs, and one pair of harrows. As the oxen form the chief of their teams, and draw by yokes, they want little harness,

harness, and even the traces of their horses are not of iron, but cordage, manufactured from hemp of their own growth. The ordinary expence, therefore, of mounting a farm of one hundred acres, is nearly as follows :

	£.	s.	d.
3 Mares, at 7l. 10s. each	22	10	0
6 Bullocks, at 8l. each -	48	0	0
4 Cows, at 3l. 10s each	14	0	0
30 Ewes, at 9s. each - -	13	10	0
1 Sow, at 1l. - - - -	1	0	0
Poultry - - - - -	0	6	0
1 Cart, with iron axel tree, &c.	7	10	0
2 Cart bodies - - - -	4	0	0
2 Ploughs - - - - -	3	0	0
1 Pair of Harrows - - -	1	0	0
4 Yokes - - - - -	0	8	0
3 Collars and cart faddle	2	16	0
Sundry sieves, fans, &c.	2	0	0
	120	0	0

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I have here presumed the stock to be of the middle kind.

The farm produces also all the ordinary and extraordinary drink of the family, and a considerable quantity also for sale, yielding six or seven tuns of strong cyder (each tun containing three hundred and fifty gallons) more than is wanted for domestic use, and is sold in ordinary from two pounds ten shillings to four pounds a tun. With the sale of this and their live stock, they generally make money enough to pay the year's rent; the rest of the produce remains for other expences, and to lay aside for their children: and if they are happy enough to have some of them grown up, they employ, in consequence, few or no servants or labourers, except to help in their hay or corn harvest; and no time is lost by them, for even in a winter's evening the men beat out the hemp, whilst the women spin.

This

This is done by the lugubrious light of a lamp, or the stinking flame of a rosin candle.

QUALITY OF THE SOIL,

AND THE

DIFFERENT SORTS OF

MANURES.

THE soils consist of black mould, clays, sand and gravel, loams, chalk, and motherstone. These soils are of various depths; and under them lie other strata, often of very different qualities. The staple, in many parts, does not appear quite so profound as our soils; but I am convinced, from my own experience, they would produce equally as much were they as carefully and as judiciously cultivated;

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in their deepest furrows, they do not enter the earth more than two inches; make no fallows; and never give more than two ploughings for any crop. Their manure, also, except it be the lime, has not sufficient force, their horses and cattle not eating corn in that abundance as British ones.

Amongst all the corrective manures for clay, sea sand, they find, claims a preference, founded on experience; but their chief dressing is lime, which is considered as an excellent manure, for its powerful dissolving and fermenting quality sweetens the soil, absorbs the acids, kills the insects, and corrects the crudities by fermentation: to make it, they choose the hardest stones they can find, preferring those that are of the colour of grey marble or granite: they let them lay exposed to the sun several days before they put them in the kiln to burn; and consider that to be the best
lime

lime for manure which takes the most time to flack. It costs, at the kiln, from eighteen to twenty shillings a load, which is about three tons weight. Although the prime cost is not dear, yet the distance they bring it, the badness of the roads, and the number of beasts they are obliged to put to their carts, enhance the price very much ; but this is nothing to what it costs in manual labour before it is spread upon the ground ; they lay it upon their worn out pastures immediately before they plough them up, and the manner they employ it is as follows : some weeks before they fetch it home, they draw six furrows close together, from one end of the field, where they intend to lay it, to the other, and continue them according to the size of the field. These furrows, by the time the lime arrives, are in a manner in a state of pulverization by the heat of the sun, (as the season is in the month of May,) they then, in the middle
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of the third furrow, put a row of lime stones, which they immediately cover by turning back the earth with a plough; and eight or ten persons following with spades to mix it well together. Before they leave it, they form the whole into the figure of a grave: it remains in that state eight or nine days, by which time it is flacked; when, with the same number of persons and spades, they cut it down, and mix it and the earth all up together. Three days after, if the weather is fine, they spread it upon the ground, and plough it in the ordinary manner. The common quantity they use, is a load for two acres; and, if the lime is strong, with all its qualities in perfection, a less portion is sufficient.

Their next manure is the dung of their farm yards, which contains but little fertility, as it is only their buck-wheat straw simply thrown down and covered with the dirt of the highway, or the emptying of
some

some pond ; sometimes they have a great heap of clay or loam, with which they cover their first litter, and then add fresh earth, in measure as this litter increases ; but, as they keep no live stock out of doors in winter, this manure cannot be very fertilizing. After laying all winter in this state, it is thrown up together and carried out upon the ground. But their stable, cow-house, ox-house, sheep-house, and hog-stye dungs are much better, especially as they are all mixed together ; but the quantity is rarely sufficient, as their horned cattle, living all winter upon little but straw, together with the vast consumption for the thatch of their houses, leave but a small portion for litter ; yet as they never put any dung upon their meadows, and sow no turnips, it goes farther than one would imagine for the manure of their buckwheat crops.

MEADOWS

MEADOWS AND PASTURES.

THE ordinary method of manuring their low-land meadows, is by flooding them; and this they have an opportunity to do with great advantage, and is a great source of fertility, if the spring proves dry; they begin to water them as soon as the frosty season is over, and continue it till the grass begins to shoot; but after that time, and the weather becomes milder, they administer the water more sparingly: this, though it increases the quantity, rather hurts than amends the quality, as it produces a greater abundance of flags and rushes; and, therefore, some persons, before they flood, cover them with a stratum of road dirt; and say they find it has a much better effect by rendering them more firm.

Their method of making hay, is the same as in this country; but when it is
made,

made, they collect it in the fields in large cocks, half a load each, putting a person upon every one of them to tread them in measure as they are made, so that they become so solid, that ten days' rain penetrate very little farther than the outside; they, after that, bind it up in the fields, in small trusses of fifteen pounds each, of which, an expert labourer, will bind three hundred per day, and this they do at sixpence per hundred; it is then carried home, and put into hay lofts, as they make no ricks; but, although this method of binding is not a bad one, (being more convenient for pitching and loading, and in proper quantity for the day's nouriture of the animals, and likewise costing much less in manual labour) yet the housing, much hurts the quality of the hay, as it is obliged to be more dried for fear of its taking fire in the loft. It loses likewise much of its smell and colour, and gathers also a great deal of dust, which is the reason
their

their horses are much more subject to be broken winded than the English ones. The price of hay varies according to the seasons. Their mode of selling is by loads, in trusses of fifteen pounds each; and one hundred of them make one of their loads, and which are generally valued in the field, in kind seasons, from eighteen to twenty shillings, and good meadows generally produce two and a half of these loads, per acre.

The mowers have here a particular manner of putting an edge upon their scythes; each man carries with him a small portable anvil, which he fixes in the ground, and, with a narrow edged hammer beats out the notches, and makes flat the edges which are turned, and afterwards he rubs it with a blue stone: by these means, they want wetting but twice in the course of the day, namely, morning and noon. They mow, in general, cleaner than our workmen, leaving no grass standing where they point in
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and point out, as our men generally do. They mow about three quarters of an acre per day ; and the pay is ten-pence per day, or fifteen-pence per acre.

Their upland meadows which they use as cow pasture, are not a long time productive of a good herbage, as there are very few old pasture grounds in this part of the country, and the uplands, in this neighbourhood, are produced from artificial grasses and that clover alone, without any other seed intermixed ; therefore, after the first year that the clover is exhausted, it is composed of weeds and four grass rather than a choice herbage ; but they generally let them lay four years in this state and then plough them up.

Their orchards are ploughed, cropped, and sown with grass as all the other grounds. The apple-trees are planted in rows about fifteen feet asunder, so as to admit the air and sun, and to enable them to drive their carts,

carts, loaded with hay or corn, in time of harvest. The apple trees produce great quantities of fruit every other year; and they take great care to renew them when dead or sickly, having always nurseries of young grafted trees upon their farms, and when an old one becomes very mossy or dies, they plant another immediately in the place, making a round hole, about five feet in circumference and two feet deep, putting a truss of barley straw or a faggot of furze in the bottom; then, placing the root upon it, they fill up the hole carefully with earth, surrounding the plant with pallisades, or binding it round with straw bands to prevent the sheep from rubbing against or gnawing the bark; some, however, only rub the trunk over with lime and water. When they pasture them with bullocks or with cows, they tie down the beast's head with a halter that passes between their fore legs, and fastens to a surcingle which goes round

round the body, and is sewed to a kind of breeching to hinder it from coming forward and giving liberty to the animal to pluck the fruit. They take all their cattle out before the middle of August, because the fruit, at that season, begins to fall, and they are fearful that the animal in eating it might be injured.

They are not, however, very choice in their species of apples, having a mixture of every sort. They beat them down with long poles in the beginning of October; then collect them into great heaps, where they let them lay till the middle of November, when they carry them to the cyder-press. They make their strong cyder of the first pressing; it is a very heady, strong liquor, with which the peasants inebriate themselves very frequently; and, when it is old and sour, they distil it into brandy, which is the same our smugglers deal in. They also press their apples

a second time, putting a great quantity of water to them before they grind them; and with this, they make a small cyder, which is the ordinary liquor for their domestics. After letting the orchards lay in grass as long as their other pastures, they plough them up; and their succession of crops are as follows: buck-wheat, hemp or flax, then wheat or rye, followed by peas or tares, barley or oats; either of the two last are sown with clover, which remains four years as before-mentioned.

BUCK-WHEAT.

Their method of sowing, and manner of employing this grain, is a system little known or practised in most parts in England; but it is however a great resource in this country, producing a great part of human and animal nouriture. Their method of cultivating it is as follows: in the month of May, they break up one or more of their upland meadows or orchards, ploughing, as superficially as they possibly can, in order that the sun may dry up the roots and blades of the grass; after letting it lay three weeks or a month; they then harrow it well, and spread their lime or dung, giving it another ploughing, not much deeper than the first. They sow the seed and harrow it in; allowing about one bushel per acre, if for grain; but if for feeding, something more than a bushel; they con-
trive

trive that this should be done before the end of the month of June, that it may be in grain before the middle of September, and that it may be reaped before the white frost commences, as, being of a tender nature, it is much effected by the weather: they reap it in the month of October, setting it up on one end in measure as they collect a handful, placing it in little shocks, without binding it, where it remains till the corn is entirely hard; for its grain, except losing its colour a little, receives very little injury from rainy weather. It is then threshed in the field, upon a sail cloth, shifting the cloth to different parts of the field; two persons throw it upon the cloth, and four thresh it, whilst two more fork away the straw; they then carry the grain home, laying it thin upon a barn floor, where it is turned every day, till they fan it out of the chaff: it is then put in the granary, where it lays till it is wanted for use or sale. The price is generally

nerally from eighteen-pence to two shillings a bushel, and yields from thirty to forty bushels per acre. They make hasty pudding and pancakes with its flour, and many persons mix it with their wheaten flour to make bread. They find it excellent, before it is in blossom, to let cattle, particularly milch cows, feed upon it, which causes them to give a great deal of milk, and makes the butter finely flavoured: they fat their hogs with it; and, mixing it with milk, they make balls to feed their fattening poultry, and the bran of it they boil up with water and give to their cows in winter, which much encreases their milk at that season. From its quick and luxuriant vegetation, they consider buck-wheat as an admirable destroyer of weeds, and suits with every soil but a very cold or wet one: it cleanses the ground so well that they never make any fallows for wheat, and the crops which follow it are generally cleaner than when fallowed.

HEMP

HEMP AND LINT.

THEY sow the first of these grains upon their broke-up pasture ground, which is prepared by ploughing as for buck-wheat ; but, as it is essential to have the ground in exceeding fine tilth, they give the first ploughing as early as possible in autumn, that it may be well mellowed and pulverized by the frost ; they then plough the ground again in February, or earlier, if the season will permit, and then lay on the manure, which is always their best dung. They sow about two bushels per acre, which is done during the whole month of May ; but the managing farmers generally sow it in the beginning of the month, that it may be ripe early, and the first gathering of it may not interfere with their harvest. This plant produces two sorts, male and female ; the first is much finer than the latter ; but

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it is the first that produces the grain. They judge of its ripeness by the yellow tinge of the leaves, and the pale whiteness of the stalks: if it is sown early, the female is fit to gather the middle of the month of July. It is pulled up by the roots, in little handfuls, and bound up in very small sheaves. They contrive that each handful should consist of plants as nearly as possible of an equal length, and their roots, in particular, placed as equally as can be. They tie each handful with a stalk of hemp; then lay it in the sun to dry its leaves and flowers, which they strip off with their hands; they then put several of these handfuls together, so as to form a pretty large bundle, when they bind them together with a rye straw band, and in this condition they carry them to some neighbouring pond or running stream; (it is to be observed that the hemp which is put into a running stream, is always much whiter than that prepared in stand-
ing

ing water) it is there sunk and covered with stones, or logs of wood to keep it down, and lays there eight or ten days, until they think it sufficiently soaked. They distinguish when it is fit to take out of the water by the bark peeling off from the straw; they then take it up, untie it, and spread it very thin upon the ground, turning it, and taking care, after binding it up again to enter it very dry. The male is ripe about the beginning of September: they strip off the leaves and feed with their hands at the time of gathering, putting them into sacks and carrying them to be spread upon their barn-floors, and there they turn them twice a day to prevent its heating, which it does sooner than any other grain. When near dry, they thresh and fan it, and lay it by either to sell or make oil for the use of the family; the process with the stalks is the same as with the female. In autumn they put the sheaves into the oven after
 their

their bread is drawn, to dry it; they afterwards extract the bark by two methods; the one is breaking off a piece at the end of the stalk, and then peeling the rest off the bark; the other is by a large wooden machine, which has several grooves in it, like rows of teeth, and there are pieces of notched wood in another piece, which being fastened upon the former, and lifting up and down, falls into those grooves whereon the hemp is placed; and then the person with the right hand works the instrument, and with the left hand draws the hemp from between the jaws of these grooves; this breaks off the bark, which falls like chaff upon the ground, and the thread part remains in their hands, which they afterwards comb with different sorts of cards according to its fineness, and tie into hanks for spinning. With the finest they make cloth, and the coarsest they employ to make traces, and all other sorts of farming cordage.

roller

It

It generally sells in the market, uncarded, at two-pence or three-pence per pound, and the grain commonly fetches from five to seven shillings per bushel. They calculate an acre of hemp to be worth four pounds, and the land in good condition to bear an excellent crop of wheat, which is the grain they generally, after one ploughing, sow upon it.

They sow lint of two sorts, the winter and the summer sown lint; the former they sow in the month of October, and it produces the grain; the latter they sow at the end of the month of March or the beginning of the month of April. The manner they prepare the ground is the same as for hemp. That which is sown in autumn, they gather in the month of June, and that sown in spring, is ripe in the month of August: the former, which bears the seed, is generally longer in the stalk than the other, and when it is ripe, becomes quite
yellow.

yellow. They expose it to dry in the sun, putting it into little handfuls before they tie it up, and when dry, they thresh out the seed upon a cloth, and then put the stems into the water as they do the hemp. More or less time is required for the steeping of the flax according to the nature of the water, the heat of the air, and the greater or less degree of woodiness of the stems. They dress it in the same manner as the hemp, and that which is the shortest, always makes the finest thread.

Flax is reared by every husbandman ; and, being dressed at home, is spun by the females of the family into thread for linen ; this is wove by country weavers, and afterwards whitened by the good housewife and her daughters or servants, so that the whole is made fit for use at a very small expence. The reason they give, also, for bleaching it at home is, they think that the bleachers, by employing lime, renders the cloth tender

and

and subject to rot, they therefore contrive to have it wove before the months of May and June in the spring, or before the months of September or October in the autumn; but they prefer the spring months, because the sun has more power. After it arrives from the weaver's, they wash and soak it in the lye, as they do their foul linen, and then spread it upon the grass, leaving it exposed day and night to heats and dews, watering it repeatedly every day, recommencing also every week the operation of washing; and at the end of two months, it becomes perfectly white and fit for use. The produce from lint is from twenty to fifty stone per acre; and sells at three pounds per score: the usual price of the seed is about eight or ten shillings the bushel.

WHEAT.

WHEAT.

THIS is sown after the buck-wheat, hemp, or lint, upon one ploughing; but the aforefaid crops render the ground very moveable and fine. Where they have not been able to manure with lime all their buck-wheat, they generally lay eight loads of dung per acre; and if they have not enough of that compost, they finish the rest with lime. They sow their seed very thick; but are not very choice in their species, as they usually sow a mixture of all sorts, red, yellow, white, and bearded wheat: in consequence, it weighs lighter than the English wheats, seldom exceeding forty pounds the bushel. They never sow it under furrows, but always harrow it in after having steeped it in lime and water. They seldom weed it; nor, indeed, does it often
want

want it, as the preceeding crops perfectly clear the ground of those noxious plants. They sow it very late, never beginning till after All Saints day, and therefore is much subject to blights, and late before it is ripe. A man reaps about two roods and a half per day. Their method of binding is totally different from the manner in England; and when the weather is fine enough to dry the reaps, without too long exposure upon the ground, is certainly a very quick mode: they have a quantity of very long bands made of rye straw before the binding day, when one, going before, places the reaps into the bands for two binders, who tie it remarkably large and tight; the sheaf is about as big as six English ones, and bound so hard, that if gathered dry in the reap, no rain afterwards can hurt it. They are in general so heavy, that it is with pain they are lifted to load them upon the carts; but in their barns, when their mows are of a certain height,

height, they raise them by a pulley. By reason of the large size they make their sheaves, they are obliged to let the reaps lay longer upon the stubble than in England before they bind them ; and even by this means, their corn is seldom very dry in handling, and many of the farmers dry their quantity for each market day, or for domestic use, by exposing it, spread upon a cloth in the air and sun after it is threshed, before they put it into the sacks. Their manner of dressing it is by fanning, and then cribbling through a machine, something like our northern fashioned hand-mill. Their wheat produces in good years about sixty of these great sheaves per acre ; and about three of these sheaves, when threshed, produce a bushel. The ordinary price is from eighteen to twenty-four shillings per quarter. They sow, also, a mixture of wheat and rye, or of wheat and barley, of which the farmers and lower class make their bread.

They

The

The process is the same as for wheat, with this difference, they sow it in January, and mostly upon a barley stubble. They reap, bind, thresh, and dress it as they do their wheat.

RYE.

THEY generally sow this grain before their wheat, beginning the middle of October. Yet, notwithstanding it is subject very much in this country to be blighted, it is not a great object with them, as they sow but small quantities, and that more for the straw than for the grain, making more bread of barley and wheat than of the latter and rye; but it is different in respect to the straw, for it is with this that they make the bands to tie up all their corn.

They

They seldom thresh this grain, on account of breaking the straw; but they beat out the kernels by striking the heads of the sheaves upon the side of a tub. There is not a farmer who does not sow some of this grain, for the reason given; and, if they have not enough to make their bands, they are obliged to buy it much dearer than any other straw. They generally employ the first wet day in harvest, or if there are none, any other day before binding, with most of their workmen, to make a sufficient quantity to bind up all their corn of every species; and they shock the sheaves of every sort in the following manner: they lay four of these great sheaves flat upon the ground, contriving that the ears, laying upon each other's tails, touch the ground as little as possible; they then place three more flat upon the first four; afterwards two in the same manner upon the last three; and then one at the top, which forms a kind of ridge,

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and covers the ears of all the rest ; by that means there is only the ears of one sheaf exposed to the weather ; and if it rains for a week or ten days, their corn seldom suffers after it is bound, although, indeed, it never dries in the shock.

They have two sorts of rye ; one, whose straw is very short, is sown in the month of January, mixed with wheat. There is little difference in the grain ; the latter is rather smaller than the first. They have no idea of feeding their rye, as in England, with their sheep : and they sell the grain in this neighbourhood to be consumed in another province. It produces about three quarters per acre ; and sells from one shilling and six-pence to three shillings per bushel.

BARLEY.

BARLEY.

THEY sow, also, two sorts of this grain ; the common and the rath ripe barley ; but they are both sown at the same time, viz. the beginning of the month of April. The only difference they find is, one ripens at least three weeks before the other, which is to them a great object in scarce years. They generally give two ploughings for this sort of grain ; the first in the autumn, which is ploughed into double furrows, like what we call bouting, and then ploughing the ground into large ridges at seed-time. They always sow it upon wheat stubbles, sowing about six bushels per acre. They reap and bind it as they do wheat ; but their manner of dressing it is peculiar to themselves. After they have fanned it clean, to clear it of all its beards, they put it into a large tub, where

where they chop it over with a wooden machine, made in form of a spade, which breaks off all the points, without damaging the corn in any manner whatever; and then press it through sieves. They make no other use of the straw but for litter, as they think it not nourishing enough to fodder their cattle, and the chaff of that and every other sort of corn they throw upon the dunghill. It produces generally from thirty to thirty-five bushels per acre, and sells commonly from one shilling to eighteen pence per bushel.

OATS.

OATS.

THERE are also two sorts of oats that they sow in this country, the great and the small; but they both appear to be a species of the Poland oat degenerated. The one is a much larger grain than the other, and sown much earlier, as it resists the frosts, and commonly yields from thirty to forty bushels per acre, and sells from twelve to fifteen shillings per quarter. It weighs about forty pounds per bushel. They consume a great deal of it for their domestic nourishment, grinding it down to a flour, and after passing it through a hair sieve, they make, by mixing it with milk, a kind of hasty pudding, which, when cold, they cut in slices and fry up with butter. The smaller sort is sown in the month of April, and yields from thirty to forty bushels per acre.

It

It is sold from eight to ten shillings per quarter. It does not weigh near so heavy as the other. This they give to their horses, and the straw of each sort serves for fodder.

They give two ploughings after the same manner as for barley, and sow their clover with the last harrowing, and then roll them. They usually mow them with a bale upon their scythe, and bind them up as their other corn, with long rye bands, into large sheaves; and as they seldom have more than two barns, it is mowed with their peas.

PEAS AND BEANS.

OF the first of these, they have two kinds, viz. the common yellow field pea, and the horngreys. They plough the ground as for barley. Of the first sort, they employ them mostly in their ordinary culinary uses, making their soup of them, with butter, all the season of Lent, as do the better sort of people also; and the latter make various dishes of them at that season, putting them under Dutch herrings, and sometimes mixing them up with various kinds of little herbs, chopped very small. Of the latter species they fat their sheep in winter, giving them to these animals in the straw, unthreshed. Their ewes and store sheep are racked up with the straw all winter, and have nothing else to eat in time of snow. They finish fattening their hogs also with them.

They

They grow very few beans ; but those they do, are of the flat Kentish kind. They make very little use of them, rarely giving them to their horses, but when extenuated with fatigue ; and of the straw they make no other use but for litter. They reap both these sorts of corn, and bind them as the rest. They yield about three quarters per acre, and sell from twenty-pence to two shillings per bushel, that is to say, the horngreys and the beans ; but the yellow sometimes sell as dear as forty shillings per quarter.

CLOVER

CLOVER SEED.

THEIR method of cutting, drying, and threshing their clover seed is so particular, that, although it will not be long enough to fill up a chapter, yet as I cannot but think it will be acceptable to the reader, I shall venture to give you some account of it. They mow it in very small swarths; and letting it lay a day or two exposed in that manner to the sun and wind, they set it up in little sheaves like their buck-wheat; by this means, if there comes rain it does not so soon grow or lose its colour. When thoroughly dry, they cut off the heads with a large pair of shears, like those used in the English gardens, and carry them in sacks into a granary, where they spread them thin. In frosty weather, they have the butt end of a large oak tree, hollowed out

out in form of a mortar, which they fill with these heads ; then, with a large wooden mallet like a pestle, they beat out the seed, and pass it through the fans and sieves in the ordinary manner. They generally sow fifteen pounds of it per acre ; and it sells in general from three halfpence to three-pence per pound.

Having now given a small sketch of their mode of living and of cultivation, I shall close my relation with a detail of their live stock, and their manner of managing it, and shall begin by an account of their horses.

HORSES.

HORSES.

THE Norman horses are esteemed all over France, and are certainly, as coach horses for state carriages, superior to the English ; but they cannot bear so much fatigue. As the greatest number of this kind are bred in the grazing part of the province, and of too large a size for the nouriture of the woodland part, I shall speak, therefore, only of the lesser size, peculiar to this neighbourhood. The cart horses, or rather mares, (for they make use of few of the former) are about fourteen hands and an inch high, generally well made, but small boned ; they however serve the double purpose of drawing and riding, as they are not subject to be chest-foundered, and are very sure-footed, being very early accustomed to bad roads. They are very quiet, which
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is, perhaps, in consequence of being kept in the house, as soon as they are weaned, every winter, where they are much used to be handled and even haltered, and therefore want very little breaking. They collar them at two, and saddle them at three years old : they breed from them at that age, then sell them, and replace them by the young ones they have produced. The price of them is from five to twelve pounds. They are also much used to carry pack-saddles, as the roads being bad, they transport their corn to market upon their horses' backs.

They have also another species for the saddle, whose pace is almost like that of the English pad. They go about six mile in an hour, in a manner so easy to the rider, that he may make seventy miles a day without fatigue. Their march is a natural one; and if not true bred from horse and mare, are subject to a broken trot, which is very disagreeable to the rider.

When

When a horse is sold, even if he is not warranted sound, he is returnable within nine days, in cases of broken wind, or a slip in the shoulder; except an agreement be made to the contrary between buyer and seller, to take him with all defects, to confirm which, the former gives to the latter an acknowledgement in writing. But at the horse market at Paris, the buyers have a securer method for the purchaser; for the price is paid into the hands of an officer, called clerk of the market, who keeps it till the eight days are expired; and then, if the horse proves sound in these particulars, pays the money to the seller, and on the contrary, returns it to the buyer.

Horses are very subject in this part of the country, upon wet land, to a variety of diseases in their bodies and limbs, such as strangles, and a watery humour between the flesh and skin, which generally proves mortal. A great many are affected with
fluxions

fluxions in the eyes, and swellings in the legs.

To cure the strangles, they take basilicon, hog's-lard, and dialthæe, each four ounces, and an ounce of oil of bays, all mixed well together, with which they well anoint the place after they have clipped away the hair; they then bind it up with a piece of sheepskin, the wool next to the inflammation, that the warmth thereof may the better help to ripen the pustules; and when ripe they let the corruption out with a small hot iron: for three or four days they tent it with basilicon, and then heal it with black ægyptiacum, taking care to let him eat good sweet hay and bran, instead of oats, with clear water for his drink.

They have a manner of nourishing their horses in the farmers' stables in winter, that is as singular as it is cheap and fattening. They cut, every day, a certain quantity of young furzes, of the first year's growth,

growth, which is cut or mowed, and afterwards chopped with a cleaver into pieces an inch or two long, and then the spines bruised or broken with a flail. It must be eaten in a day after it is bruised, and chopped straw given with it. One hundred of straw will serve a ton of furze. Two bushels per day of this food, with fifteen pounds of hay each, will serve for four horses, as well as corn : by this means, the peasant is enabled to give his cattle green food in winter when no other plant can be had for that use.

BULLOCKS.

BULLOCKS.

They work their bullocks from three years old to fix. Their manner of choosing them is with horns open and of a middling length, a large forehead full and skinny, black eyes, teeth white and even, neck large and fleshy, shoulders and bosom the same, the dew-lap falling to his knees, the ribs large, the belly round and deep, the haunches long, the rump wide, the legs large, the back straight, the tail long, the feet hard, and hoofs strong and horny; they reckon the red and brindled the best coloured, the hardiest to resist fatigue, and the easiest to fat. Their manner of fastening them to the plough or their carts are by three methods; the first double by the yoke, the second single with traces fastened to a yoke upon their necks, and thirdly by their horns,

horns, which is certainly the best way of working them : the reason is obvious if we consider that, by this mode of proceeding, there is no strain upon any of the smaller muscles of the neck, as, though the pressure be great, the vertebræ are only locked close to each other. They do almost all their ploughing and carting with bullocks, working them from six in the morning till twelve at noon, and from two in the afternoon till seven in the evening. They have no doubt of the superiority of oxen in the cultivation of their farms ; for horses, to do work effectually, must be well supported with oats ; and, what is of much consequence, must be carefully dressed : neither of these circumstances do they think necessary for oxen, they being strong, and able to go through their work upon very little hay and straw. In the beginning of winter, they give them a small portion of hay, mixed with a great quantity of rye

and wheaten straw; they give them this food as long as they lie within; and they find without any corn, though at work, they do very well, and remain healthy and vigorous: and in summer, any sort of pasture there is using. With horses, they find the case very different; they must be kept up with oats at five times the expence of the nourishment of the oxen; and, as the latter have no dressing, one man is able to attend many of them: another circumstance, the difference of shoeing and no harness; the oxen have no shoes, and their harness is much cheaper than that of a horse: lastly, the great superiority of all, the easy expence of breeding them, besides getting the labour of the beast. They work them from three years old to five, and then sell them to fat, or turn them into their richest meadows to feed, driving them from thence to the respective markets, where they are sold at six years old.

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An acre of clover, sowed green, will feed five working oxen through the summer. They are not subject to many diseases in this country, except now and then the cholic, sometimes hove and sometimes wrung in the neck by the yoke, or lame in marching on the great roads. They give the following remedies for these diseases; for the cholic, they bleed them plentifully at the tail, and give them a drink made of boiled onions and lees of wine. When hove, they give them two quarts of salt and water, putting afterwards a gag in their mouths, and driving them about till they throw off a quantity of froth and water from their stomachs, and if that does not succeed, they make an aperture between the ribs. For the excoriation of the neck, they rub the wound with hogs-lard and bees wax, mixed together; and for the lameness in the hoofs, they make a salve of pitch and grease mixed with powder of brimstone,

brimstone, dissolved together, and with a hot iron melt that on the fore hoof or claw, and give the beast some days repose



COWS.

THEIR species of cows are, in general very small and appear to be of the same breed as those which are fold in England for Alderney cows. They raise them mostly upon their respective farms, and they put them to the bull at one year old, which certainly must stint *their* growth. When in their prime, they give, in the fresh of the grass, from five to six gallons of milk per day. They milk them in the spring and summer, three times in the day. They are housed during the heat of the day

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in all the hot weather to protect them from the flies, and in winter remain almost continually in the house. They nourish them in winter with hay, and give them, three times a day, a pail of scalded bran or chopped nettles and buck-wheat chaff, which they think makes them give more milk than all dry hay. They generally milk them till seven years old, when they either fat them, or sell them to be fatted. They seldom weigh more than from forty-five to fifty-five stone; when fat, they sell from five pounds ten shillings to seven pounds.

They manage their daries in the following manner: they put their milk into large deep stone pans made in the shape of a flower pot, first heating them over the fire: it then remains three or four days without skimming, till the milk is curdled, and a thick cream rises upon the top; thus from every pot they gather a pint or more of cream,

cream, which they put into another deep pan, until they have enough to churn. The ordinary price of butter in the summer months is from four-pence to five-pence per pound. In the months of May and September they always put down sufficient for the house consumption in winter. To every pound, they put an ounce of coarse salt. In winter they always put fire in their dairies. They do not let their calves suck; but they give them as much new milk in a pail as they will drink, three times a day. As butter is always dearest in Lent, they contrive to have some cows calve at that season, as they always reserve grass unfed all winter on purpose to nourish them; and the calves that come between the latter end of February, April, and Midsummer, are kept for stores, and brought into use at two years old for breeding of heifers, and three years old to plough: if steers, ploughing only half the day at first, and by degrees seasoning them to a full day's journey.

SHEEP.

SHEEP.

THEIR sheep are not very large, the smallest being about the size of the South-down, and the largest that of the Norfolk breed. They have brown heads and legs, and are tolerably compact in their shape and make. They manage them in a very different manner from the English farmers. They never fold them; but always enter them in a sheep-house at noon and at night; and every time it rains, as they have an idea that too great heat, rain, or the night-air, affects the health of this animal. This method renders their wool extremely coarse and very full of dirt, dust, and hay-feed; and as they never wash the wool upon the sheep's back, after it is shorn, there comes out such a quantity of filth, that it loses at least half its weight, their

their fleeces seldom weighing more than from three to four pounds of neat wool: this commonly sells from fifteen to eighteen pence per pound. As they seldom take the dung from under them in their sheep-houses above twice a year, the heat makes the wool grow very long and harsh. In winter nights they rack them up with pea-straw; and as they have no idea of the culture of turnips, the poor sheep are very badly nourished all that season; they therefore endeavour, by keeping the rams from the ewes till late in the year, to have their lambs drop as late as they possibly can.

The diseases they are subject to are those common in all countries; they have more frequently what they call the hog-pox, and which it is probable proceeds from the great heat, in which they are kept in their sheep-houses. They attribute the rot also to an herb they call *dove*, which grows in many of the low meadows. For the scab they have an infallible

fallible remedy, making an ointment of per-
 cipitate and hogs-lard, and rubbing it well
 in upon the part affected : when the wea-
 ther is dry it seldom fails to operate a cure.
 For the staggering they open their mouths,
 where they find a blister under the tongue,
 which they break, and rub the wound
 with earth and sage, and afterwards with
 urine. When the sheep of this part of the
 country are fat, they weigh from thirty
 to forty eight pounds ; and when lean, are
 sold from five to seven shillings and six-
 pence per head.

HOGS.

THEIR breed of hogs are a long lank fort, high upon the legs, and slender in the carcase ; but as they never put them up to fat till they are turned of a year old, they feed well, and when fat they ordinarily weigh from three to four hundred weight. Their method of nourishing them whilst lean, is, I believe, peculiar to this country : they never give them their wash without some sort of vegetables chopped small and mixed with it ; they strip off every day some of the under leaves of their cabbages, of which they plant a great quantity in their gardens on purpose ; and with a knife, made for that operation, they shred them into very small pieces, and then mixing them with a little bran or the chaff of buck-wheat, put all together in their wash
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or skim milk, and in default of this sort of vegetables, they gather nettles and other weeds in the fields and hedges. For the same purpose, many sow parsnips in the open fields for their hogs, and give them no other food all winter, letting them eat these roots raw, at first sliced lengthways, and when they begin not to relish them in that manner, they cut them in pieces, and put them into a large copper, pressing them down close, and boiling them with only so much water as fills up the chasms between them. They eat them very greedily; and mixed with buck-wheat flour, eat very fast upon this nouriture; and then they finish them with a bushel or two of pease.

They are very careful when buying them to see that they are free from disease, particularly the measles, throwing them down and examining their mouth and tongue.

They feed their sows before they are old not only on account of their decrease in value,
but

but because they are generally productive of mischief when they get old in throwing the gates off the hinges, and in passing through the hedges. When fat, hog's flesh sells for about three-pence per pound. The farmers make no bacon; but pickle all down, except the hams. The hogs they kill for fresh pork are all skinned instead of scalded, and in consequence hogskins, in the killing season, are very cheap and plentiful.

I shall here conclude with observing my only design in the latter part of this work was to relate a few plain facts, from which gentlemen may perhaps draw some useful inferences; and although I have not presumed to make any observations, or draw any comparisons between the agriculture of this country and that of Normandy, yet, having for some years made the science of cultivation and the qualifications of a land-steward my study both in theory and practice,

tice, I shall humbly offer, before I finish, some few observations upon the qualities requisite in a person following such an employ ; for, having observed a multiplicity of abuses, and various instances of misconduct, I am desirous of making public those remedies which have been suggested to me by subsequent reflections. A man employed as a land-steward may have been a very honest and good person, and very faithful in his receipts and payments ; he may have nothing but the interest of his employer at heart, and yet from want of proper skill in drawing a fair line between landlord and tenant, as the common guardian of the interests of both parties, he may not perfectly have discharged the duties of the employ for which he was engaged : for it frequently has happened that the rent paid by some tenants, instead of being a compensation for the yearly product of the land, has been absolutely a diminution of so much money from

from the fee-simple or real value of the estate, which, having been let to improper tenants, who from incapacity or want of money, have been tempted, for present advantage, to pursue a system of agriculture in the end ruinous; the result of which was, that large tracts of land have fallen into the proprietor's hands after they have been impoverished by self-interested or injudicious tenants. This has proceeded in a great degree from the want of judgement in the agents employed in such concerns, for no man is capable of judging rightly of the condition of a farm, and the abilities of a farmer, but a person well qualified in the same profession.

A steward, before he leases a farm of arable land, should examine whether the mode of husbandry pursued by the proposing tenant is one that would be suitable to the farm he wishes to rent, and whether there are any advantages to be derived from
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the bowels of the earth, with respect to clay, marle, sand, limestone, or chalk. He should take care of the covenants the tenant is to hold by, and how far it will be in his power to impoverish the land, without breach of covenant, before the end of the term, and whether the stock of every kind he is like to bring upon the farm, is the best that might suit it; and if the quantity is sufficient; or whether it is probable the tenant might suffer from being overstocked. He should take care to construct covenants and make agreements for the reciprocal bondage of landlord and tenant, with a view always directed to the preservation of the value of the estate; and if it can be done without sacrificing the tenant's interest to its improvement. Also the situation and the general product as to quantity, quality, and value are the first considerations in pasture land; the quantity and quality of the stock it carries, both in wet and dry seasons, and what sort of stock will
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be best adapted to the soil. In mowed grounds, the quantity and quality of the hay ought to be a principal consideration, and in arable lands the assorting the crops according to the qualities and proportion of the soil; the amelioration of a proportionable quantity every year by manure, the leaving a third part uncropped at the expiration of the term for the in-coming tenant, the preservation of the timber, and every year a reparation and new making of a twelfth part of the hedges and ditches.

The next consideration to that of allotting land properly is providing suitable buildings for carrying on the business of a farmer to the advantage and comforts of an occupier. With regard to a house to be built upon any farm; a parlour, kitchen, brewhouse, dairy, and cellar are absolutely necessary, with chambers and garrets, upon large farms; and chambers in the roof upon small ones. In the yard; barns, stables, pigsties, cow-lodges, cart and waggon sheds

sheds should be built of proportionable sizes, according to the extent of the farm, or for the particular mode of occupying it. It is necessary that every ploughed farm should consist of two barns, or two thrashing floors, as all loose grain should be deposited in barns, for by loose grain being stacked out of doors, ten per cent. is lost. This matter will not be thought exaggerated, when the first expence of stacking and thatching is considered, the risque of bad weather while stacks are carrying up, the inevitable waste by fowls and vermin whilst they are standing, the unavoidable havock made in taking them into the barns, the expence of labour attending that business, and the danger of bad weather a second time: but wheat is better by being stacked upon frames; and as it is always bound in sheaves, there is neither the same risk or expence in entering it in the barn before it is thrashed.

I cannot take leave of this subject with-

out recommending to all gentlemen of landed property as well as persons desirous of hiring farms, to be cautious that farmers do not take more land than their circumstances will admit of stocking, improving, and managing, to the greatest advantage; for the ill consequences attending such practices are flagrant, by which procedure, many industrious farmers have been ruined, and many estates brought into disrepute very undeservedly.

FINIS.

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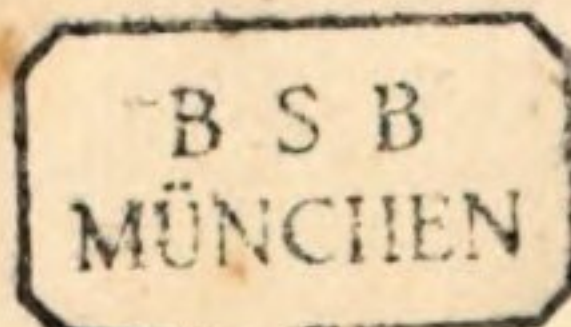
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